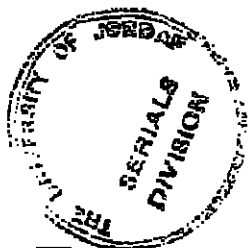


## German hit in attack on Nile cruiser

ASSIUT (AP) — A German woman was shot in the neck Friday by gunmen who attacked a Nile cruise boat carrying holidaymakers through a southern Egyptian village known for extremism. Security officials in Assiut, 32 kilometres south of Cairo, said police did not know how many assailants fired on the boat but that they used machineguns. The boat, which had 33 German tourists among its passengers, was the second boat in a two-boat convoy travelling north from Luxor to Cairo. Its windows were smashed, but the accompanying cruiser was not hit. It was the first cruise boat attacked since Sept. 18. Hospital spokesmen reported the woman was in critical condition. Jürgen Steltzer, spokesman at the German embassy, said police guarding the boat returned fire, but there was no word on whether any of the attackers was hit. Mr. Steltzer said he understood nobody else was harmed on the boat. He said he had not been able to confirm the woman's name.



# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

## Bahrain dismisses Qatari approach

THE HAGUE (R) — Bahrain on Friday dismissed Qatar's allegations that it was flexing its military muscles in the disputed Hawar Islands and said it would not be dragged before the International Court of Justice as Qatar's captive. In hearings before the United Nations court, Bahrain rejected Qatar's claim to sovereignty over the Hawar Islands and the reefs of Dibal and Jaradah. But it declined to discuss the accusations that it had recently brought heavy artillery and military vehicles into Hawar and concentrated solely on the 60-year old sovereignty dispute which Qatar submitted to the court in July 1991. Bahrain's Minister for Legal Affairs Hussain Mohammad Al Baharna said Qatar's unilateral application to the court was a ploy to gain an unfair advantage. "Qatar intends to set up the case in a way that suits it ... and control the range of issues on which the court will decide," he said. "Bahrain will be happy to come to the court, but not as the captive of Qatar." Tension between the two Gulf states flared into a military confrontation in 1986 but was later cooled by Saudi mediation.

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## Israelis bombard in south Lebanon

RASHAYA (AP) — Israeli troops blasted Lebanese guerrillas making a fresh attempt to infiltrate an Israeli-occupied enclave in South Lebanon and shelled their suspected bases early Friday, security sources said. It was the third failed infiltration into the border strip since last Friday's massacre in Hebron. The sources said guerrillas of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah tried to move into the Israeli-occupied territory around midnight (2200 GMT) Thursday. Israeli troops spotted the infiltrators and blasted them with tank fire, said the sources.

## Kurds bomb Iraqi pipeline in Turkey

DIYARBAKIR (R) — Rebel Kurds in southeast Turkey bombed a blockaded pipeline full of Iraqi crude oil in the fourth such attack in the past six weeks, officials said on Friday. The blast caused fire but no casualties. Members of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) attacked the pipeline between Cizre and Idli towns, near the Iraqi border, on Thursday, the officials said. The fire was put out and there was no loss of oil from the pipeline, they said. The 986-kilometre pipeline, which runs from the Iraqi oilfields of Kirkuk to Turkey's southern coast, has not been used since August 1990, when Ankara shut it down under a U.N. trade embargo imposed on Baghdad for its invasion of Kuwait. When operational the pipeline earns money for Turkey. About four million barrels of crude oil are trapped in the pipeline and officials say it should be emptied to prevent corrosion.

## Norwegian questioned for Rushdie threat

OSLO (AP) — Police questioned and released the head of a Muslim organisation in Norway who publicly threatened Friday to try to kill British writer Salman Rushdie if he comes to a conference on freedom of expression. A day earlier, the national writers' association invited Mr. Rushdie and other writers who have been exposed to death threats to a Sept. 21-23 conference in the west coast city of Stavanger. "If I get hold of weapons and if I have the opportunity of getting to him, then I won't give him up," said Ibrahim Yildiz, president of the Muslim association of Rogaland in western Norway. His comments were broadcast on radio by NRK Rogaland. The national news agency, NTB, said police in Stavanger brought Yildiz in for questioning, then released him without charge.

## Columbia blasts off

CAPE CANAVERAL (AP) — After a one-day weather delay, Columbia thundered towards space Friday with five astronauts on a two-week science mission that could break the shuttle endurance record. Columbia soared into a clear sky at 8:53 a.m. EST (1353 GMT), right on time. It was an ideal morning for a launch. Thursday's liftoff attempt was called off the day before, hours before fuelling, because high wind was predicted. The forecasts proved true. The shuttle is supposed to spend 13 days and 23 hours in orbit, just an hour shy of the longest shuttle mission, flown by Columbia last October. The crew is hoping for a landing delay — just one extra orbit will do — to break the record.

## Indian police arrest 'Pakistani agents'

NEW DELHI (AP) — Police arrested six suspects, including four Pakistanis, accused of planning acts of "terrorism" in India, New Delhi's police chief said Friday. Also arrested Wednesday and Thursday were a Bangladeshi and an Indian, and police seized a stock of explosives and grenades, said M.B. Kaushal, the police commander. The alleged conspirators possessed computer floppy discs with plans to blow up important buildings and shrines, and instructions on the use of weapons, he told a news conference. Mr. Kaushal claimed the suspects were trained by the Inter-Services Intelligence, Pakistan's foreign intelligence wing, which India blames for training and arming Muslim separatists in the disputed state of Kashmir.

# Israeli troops, settlers kill four Palestinians

NABLUS, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinians during clashes on Friday in a Palestinian refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, a local hospital said.

The deaths brought to four the number of Arabs killed in violence in the occupied territories on Friday.

Earlier Friday, Jewish settlers killed a Palestinian and troops shot dead another in the occupied territories as the bloodletting spawned by the Hebron mosque massacre based into its second week with no end in sight.

But Israeli security forces, deploying in strength, smothered expected trouble in Jerusalem — even briefly banning Jews from the western wall, in an unprecedented move to avoid clashes with angry Arab worshippers.

The army said three Palestinian assailants stabbed two Israelis, one an immigrant from India, at the Gaza Strip settlement of Gush Katif. The Israelis shot one Palestinian dead and wounded another.

Arab sources said a 17-year-old Palestinian, believed to belong to the Islamic Jihad faction, was shot dead in Gaza City when he stabbed a soldier outside a mosque.

Arab sources said a 24-year-old Palestinian was shot in the head and killed by troops during clashes in the Balata refugee camp in Nablus.

The trouble erupted after rampaging settlers smashed a dozen Arab-owned cars during the night.

In Hebron, masked Palestinians, some firing marbles from slingshots, defied a curfew to clash with troops in barricade-clogged streets choking with clouds of tear-gas and black smoke from burning tyres.

The fighting centred around the domed Al Baka Mosque as the army tried to stop Muslims going out to pray.

Palestinian factions urged people to break the curfew to pray at the Ibrahim Mosque, site of the massacre, and called on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to halt negotiations with Israel until all settlers have been disarmed and removed from the territories.

All other major towns in the territories except Bethlehem were still under curfew.

Security authorities, fearing trouble would flare Friday after Muslims attended prayers, deployed in large numbers throughout the occupied territories.

"There's still a lot of tension," said police spokesman Shmuel Ben Rubi.

Hundreds of armed policemen ringed the Haram Al Sharif complex, a frequent flashpoint and virtually sealed off the old walled city.

Young Muslims were barred from Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest shrine, and Jews were moved away from the western wall for an hour.

That is the first time it has been blocked off and the move drew protests from ultra-orthodox Jewish groups.

The precautions were aimed at preventing Arabs at Al Aqsa atop the walled mount from stoning Jews below at the wall, which is generally crowded on the eve of the Jewish Sabbath.

After last Friday's massacre, Palestinians near Al Aqsa stoned Jewish worshippers. In October 1990, police killed 17 Palestinians in clashes around Al Aqsa after they stoned Jews.

The Islamic Waqf organisation, which looks after Muslim shrines in the complex, protested the Israeli measures.

Only about 20,000 Arabs were allowed to pray at Al Aqsa, a fraction of the number which usually turn out. Most were middle-aged or elderly.

Sheikh Mohammad Kafrawi, who delivered the sermon at Al Aqsa, told worshippers: "We're waiting for more massacres because there are so many Baruchs running around freely."

He appealed to worshippers not to cause trouble, saying: "We don't need more bloodshed and more martyrs. We've

(Continued on page 5)

# All 4 defendants found guilty in New York blast

NEW YORK (Agencies) — A jury Friday found people guilty of bombing the World Trade Centre last year.

The verdicts came in the fifth day of deliberations by the jury of eight women and four men. They began deliberations on Feb. 23, just three days before the first anniversary of the explosion which left six people dead and injured more than 1,000.

The defendants in the case were Mohammed Salameh, Nidal Ayyad, Mahmoud Abu Halima and Ahmad Ajaj. Each was charged with 11 counts. The conspiracy charge was the main allegation in the indictment, although it carries a maximum sentence of only five years in prison, other related charges could send the men to prison for life.

Because there were no witnesses who could place any of the defendants at the landmark New York building on the day of the blast, the government built its case on a complex chain of circumstantial and scientific evidence.

Prosecutors presented 207 witnesses and 1,003 exhibits during the trial, which began in September.

"Injustice," shouted Mr. Salameh as the verdicts were read. "God is great," the defendants shouted in Arabic, pounding on the defence tables. A supporter cried out: "My brother is innocent" and was quickly removed from the courtroom.

Prosecutors asserted Mr. Salameh, 26, a Jordanian immigrant, helped bankroll the attack, built the bomb and rented the van that carried it into the trade centre's underground parking garage.

They said Mr. Ayyad, 26, a chemist, ordered chemicals for the bomb and sent messages to news organisations afterward that the motive was to protest U.S. aid to Israel.

Witnesses said Mr. Abu Halima, 34, was frequently in the apartment where the bomb was built, while Ahmad Ajaj, 28, allegedly provided bomb-making expertise. Mr. Ajaj

was in jail on a false-passport conviction when the blast happened.

Mr. Ajaj lived in Houston; the rest in New Jersey suburbs of New York City.

Defence attorneys contended that the government twisted the evidence to spin a web of conspiracy trapping the defendants.

While some defence lawyers would not even concede it was a bomb that devastated the trade centre, Mr. Salameh's lawyer, Robert Precht, surprisingly acknowledged during closing arguments that there was a bombing conspiracy and that his client was involved.

Mr. Precht insisted Mr. Salameh was an unwitting dupe of the alleged ringleader, Ramzi Yousef, a fugitive, and therefore was innocent.

Mr. Salameh wrote a letter to Judge Kevin Duffy, saying "I object to everything Mr. Precht said in his summation."

But Mr. Precht stood by his

(Continued on page 5)

# U.N. says Serbs still raping, murdering Muslims in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Despite a successful ceasefire around Sarajevo, unarmoured Serbs are raping, robbing and murdering Muslims in the north Bosnian town of Banja Luka, a U.N. relief official said on Friday.

"Banja Luka ... is one of the most grim places in Bosnia even though there's no shelling there," said Kris Janowski, spokesman for the Sarajevo office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"There's a continuing campaign of intimidation, quite brutal intimidation — some times murder — against Muslims there."

With 55 per cent of the area's pre-war population and a tight grip on its major military installations, Serbs took control of Banja Luka in the first hours of Bosnia's 23-month ethnic war that has brought accusations of atrocities against all sides.

Serbs have driven Muslims from their homes ever since in a policy dubbed "ethnic cleansing" to create wholly

Serb territory. U.N. aides say Mr. Janowski cited three recent examples from a UNHCR staff report prepared in Banja Luka.

A 72-year-old Muslim man slashed with knives until he was barely recognisable died in hospital in Banja Luka this week. The report said he had been attacked in his home by uniformed people at night.

A 34-year-old Muslim woman was raped by uniformed men in front of her 10-year-old daughter, who was held at gun point.

An 18-year-old Muslim girl was raped in her house by uniformed men because her parents did not have money to give them. The girl's parents were bound and her father was beaten in the incident.

Mr. Janowski added: "We know that at least five persons have been murdered since the beginning of January in Banja Luka. There are countless cases of people being beaten up, intimidated."

"Muslim neighbourhoods are raided by uniformed gangs of people who shoot out the

windows and try to give them the message basically to get out."

Serb intimidation forced about 200 Muslims to flee the village of Bronzani Majdan outside Banja Luka last month. All are now seeking UNHCR assistance in leaving the country.

Asked who the assailants were, Mr. Janowski replied: "We understand that they are either part of some sort of a militia or the Serb military. The authorities tell us all the time they have nothing to do with it, that these people are some sort of criminals, but none of these cases have ever been followed by the authorities, no one has ever been punished."

"We assume that this is all done with the knowledge and at least the silent consent of the authorities otherwise they would do something to stop it, but they do absolutely nothing."

Every mosque in Banja Luka, including some of inter-

(Continued on page 5)



An Israeli soldier searches a Palestinian boy going to pray at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque (AP photo)

# Shaath: U.S. backs armed observers in occupied lands

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) envoy Nabil Shaath Friday said the United Nations was near agreement, with U.S. backing, on a proposal for an armed international presence in the Israeli-occupied territories.

While he said discussions on "modalities and timing" for such a presence were still underway, Dr. Shaath was adamant that the presence would involve armed "security people."

Dr. Shaath said Secretary of State Warren Christopher supported the idea of stationing a U.N. force on the West Bank to protect Palestinians against Jewish residents.

However, Dr. Shaath said the PLO was not ready to reopen negotiations over self-rule with Israel. He said a U.N. resolution encompassing Palestinian demands had not been worked out yet.

"The resolution, including parts of it that are supported by the United States, includes an international presence in the occupied territories," Dr. Shaath said after a 90-minute meeting with Mr. Christopher.

He said there was no decision yet on the composition of the force. But dismissing any suggestion only civilians might be involved, Dr. Shaath said, "They have to be security people."

## Zulu: party to register for polls

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Zulu nationalists who vehemently opposed South Africa's first all-race election reversed themselves Friday and said they would register for the April vote.

But Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) set conditions for participating in the election, and a leading pro-apartheid white group refused to join its black ally in signing up for the vote.

Less than eight weeks remain until the April 26-28 vote, which will formally end apartheid by including the black majority for the first time.

The deadline for registering for the election was midnight (2200 GMT) Friday. By agreeing to register, Inkatha signalled it believed international mediation could work out differences with the African National Congress (ANC) and President F.W. de Klerk's government on the powers of regional governments in a new constitution.

Mr. Buthelezi and ANC leader Nelson Mandela met this week and agreed on international mediation in return for Inkatha's registering for the election.

Inkatha's central committee endorsed that agreement Friday, but said any participation in the election beyond registration depended on the mediation forging acceptable solutions on Inkatha's demand for an autonomous Zulu state.

It also said mediators must make sure all participants in the election have equal opportunity to campaign if the voting dates remain as scheduled.

We are not talking about historians and psychoanalysts."

Dr. Shaath called his meeting with Mr. Christopher, held a few hours before the secretary of state's departure for Asia, "positive" and added: "We are satisfied that we have the serious concerns of the United States reflected by the secretary and state department people and the president."

But while the PLO would like to resume negotiations with Israel, Dr. Shaath said, the resolution is not finished. He had meetings scheduled with other State Department and White House officials later in the day.

Dr. Shaath disavowed on Thursday night any intention of scuttling the 28-month-old peace process. But he said in light of the attack on a Hebron mosque by a Jewish extremist, "what we are doing is the only way that we need to go."

Dr. Shaath's arrival statement did not contain demands for the disarming of all Jews who live on the West Bank and Gaza, nor did he insist on uprooting the settlements.

But he said the Clinton administration should find ways to assist the Palestinians, possibly through the United Nations. "We really have to protect Palestinians from settlers and not just the other way

around, as the Israelis have been assuming all along," he said.

In the meantime, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has not accepted President Clinton's invitation to hold negotiations here with Israel on arrangements for Palestinian self-rule, first in Jericho and Gaza and then throughout the West Bank.

Only a handful of issues stand in the way of implementing the self-rule declaration Israel and the PLO agreed to last year.

Dr. Shaath said peace talks provide the only guarantee that Palestinians "will have real security in the long run." But he said the attack on the mosque brought out the need for interim measures.

He did not say what the PLO wanted specifically. But PLO leaders have said all settlers should be disarmed and a U.N. observer force sent to the West Bank and Gaza.

"There is a lot that needs to be done and can be done," he said. "That's why I am here."

Even before the PLO officials arrived, Mr. Christopher had voiced his support for enhancing the security of Palestinians.

But it was not clear how far the Clinton administration

(Continued on page 5)

# Greece tries to narrow Israel-PLO differences

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian negotiator Faisal Husseini said Friday that stalled Middle East peace talks will not resume until Israel gives "positive answers" to Palestinian demands for better protection following the Hebron mosque massacre.

Mr. Husseini spoke to reporters after an hour-long meeting with Foreign Minister Carolos Papoulias of Greece, which currently holds the European Union (EU) presidency.

Mr. Papoulias also met Friday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

"All this exchange of ideas is aimed at overcoming the crisis," Mr. Papoulias said.

He said an international force to protect the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was among ideas under discussion.

But he did not say if Israel has softened its opposition to any outside military presence, a move the Israelis consider diminishes their authority in the occupied territories.

Mr. Peres said after meeting Mr. Papoulias: "We're ready to consider every possible means to enhance the security and the feeling of safety to all concerned."

But Mr. Peres termed as "speculation" Israeli media reports that the United States wants further steps taken to rein in Jewish settlers.

The Feb. 25 massacre in the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron was carried out by a Jewish settler, Baruch Goldstein, who was beaten to death by survivors.

Israel Radio said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher reportedly told PLO envoy Nabil Shaath in

meetings earlier this week that Israel has been asked to detain dozens of extremist settlers and take away their automatic weapons.

The Hebrew daily Haaretz carried a similar report and said the United States also wanted a large number of extremists among the 180,000 settlers banished from the occupied territories.

Following a cabinet decision last Sunday, the Israeli army has ordered the detention of six extremist settlers and the disarming of 18 others.

An unspecified number of settlers have been banned from entering Hebron, and the government is considering whether to outlaw the extremist Kach Movement.

Goldstein was a disciple of Kach's founder, the late Rabbi Meir Kahane.

Mr. Husseini, the top representative of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat in the occupied territories, said Israeli measures to date did not satisfy Palestinian demands.

The PLO wants all settlers disarmed, Jewish enclaves removed from the centre of Hebron and Nablus, an international force to protect Palestinians in the territories and the future of the 144 settlements put on the negotiating agenda now.

Asked when the Palestinians would return to talks with Israel, Mr. Husseini said: "The moment that the Israelis will give positive answers."

He added: "We haven't given up on the peace. But I don't know if I can still be optimistic about this peace process. I'm afraid that this peace process is dying."

# France calls for talks on settlements

PARIS (Agencies) — French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe urged Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Friday to negotiate the future of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, leading to their possible "regrouping."

"We believe the issue of the settlements and of their eventual regrouping should be the object of negotiations between the parties," Mr. Juppe told reporters after meeting top PLO official Yasser Abed Rabbo.

An accord signed in Washington on Sept. 13 between Israel and the PLO said the future of the settlements would only come to the negotiating table three years after Palestinian self-rule began in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Juppe's statement appeared to indicate Paris no longer gave the full backing it offered so far to the accord following the massacre seven days ago by a Jewish settler, of at least 60 Palestinians praying in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Defence Minister Francois Leotard, who separately met Mr. Abed Rabbo, offered the help of France's gendarmes (para-military police) to train Palestinian policemen, trained so far in Egypt and Jordan.

Mr. Juppe repeated that France favoured the "neutralisation of all known extremists who wanted to kill peace" and that he was concerned about the weapons carried by settlers when they moved about the occupied territories.

He said Paris favoured the supervision of security measures in the occupied territories by international observers serving under the United Nations.

Mr. Juppe avoided a direct response when asked if France would contribute observers to such a mission.

"We insist that the security of the Palestinian population be ensured. It is the only way, to render credible the peace process and we call on Israeli authorities... to take all the necessary measures," Mr. Juppe said.

The French minister said Paris hoped a draft resolution, now before the United Nations Security Council and dealing with the situation would be passed soon.

French officials told reporters later the resolution was held up by American objections to references in the text to Jerusalem.

Mr. Leotard was due to visit Israel from March 9-11 and his office said he would meet local Palestinian leaders in occupied Arab East Jerusalem on March 10.

In Israel, U.S. and European envoys met Israeli leaders in search of concessions to calm Arab rage and allow the PLO to return to the negotiating table.

## Israelis want colony

Polls in two major Israeli dailies Friday showed that most Israelis oppose uprooting 450 Jewish settlers living in the West Bank town of Hebron, scene of last week's massacre.

At least three ministers in Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's cabinet have said that the settlement in the heart of Hebron, which has a Palestinian population of 80,000, is provocative and should be dismantled.

Calls to close down the settlement and other Jewish settlements in Arab towns followed the Feb. 25 mosque massacre.

A poll published in Yedioth Ahronoth said only 40 per cent of 507 Israelis interviewed thought the government should evacuate settlements located in heavily populated Arab areas.

Fifty two per cent thought the settlers should be allowed to stay and eight per cent declined to respond.



## Hamas rejects Arafat appeal as theatrics, presses call for jihad

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, on Friday described as hollow a call by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to join hands in his campaign to negotiate the status of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories with Israel and ensure the protection of the Palestinians living there.

"Arafat's call is simple theatrics with no substance," said Ibrahim Ghosheh, the Amman-based spokesman for Hamas. "He is trying to circumvent Hamas' demand for shelling the so-called peace talks with Israel," Mr. Ghosheh told the Jordan Times.

firmed that he has no intention of moving from the course of surrender he has adopted," Mr. Ghosheh said.

In a Feb. 28 open appeal to the rank of file of Fateh, the mainstream PLO group founded by Mr. Arafat, Hamas said: "We appeal to our brothers in Fateh to join hands and escalate the intifada and holy war against the enemy."

"The (Hebron massacre) in which hundreds of our people died confirms the righteousness of resistance and armed struggle, and exposes the Zionists' claims that they wish to coexist in peace with our people," it said.

In his message to Hamas, Mr. Arafat said: "It is the hour of unity and solidarity and uniting ranks and not differences and divisions."

"This unity is most needed when we are fighting one of our fiercest battles to find a radical and comprehensive solution to the settlements and the dismantling of settlers and securing international protection for our people," he wrote.

According to Mr. Ghosheh, "this is not a language of reconciliation as we had proposed. We wanted Arafat to abandon the negotiations with Israel and return to armed struggle to liberate our lands."

Mr. Ghosheh said Mr. Arafat "is ignoring the streets of Amman, Damascus, Cairo and the occupied territories which have erupted in protest against negotiations with Israel."

the Palestinian people," he added.

Hamas, which is locked in a running battle with Mr. Arafat's Fateh for leadership of the Palestinians living in the occupied territories, rules out any dealings with Israel and propagates jihad (holy war) as the means to achieve liberation.

The group has vowed to step up armed attacks against Israel and, in a Feb. 25 statement, singled out settlers as potential targets for revenge attacks following the Hebron massacre.

"We will not let up our resistance against Israel until the lands are totally liberated," Mr. Ghosheh vowed Friday.

He said a group of 10 Palestinian groups in an alliance based in Damascus would meet after the Eid Al Fitr "to concentrate on our further course of action" to undermine the peace process.

The coalition, known as the Alliance of Palestinian Forces, "was preoccupied with internal affairs so far," Mr. Ghosheh said. "Now we can turn our full attention to activities in the occupied territories."

He was referring to the formation of a leadership council for the alliance. After several months of deliberations, the council was formed in January, with each of the 10 factions nominating two members each to the body. All secretary generals of the groups plus members are now members of the council. The only exception is the Popular



Ibrahim Ghosheh

Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), whose secretary-general, George Habash, did not join the council because of ill-health and nominated his deputy.

For the first time after the Sept. 13 Israeli-PLO accord was signed, Hamas has threatened Palestinians from the occupied territories who are members of the delegation negotiating peace with Israel.

"We demand that the Oslo team announce their immediate withdrawal from the negotiations with Israel," the group said in an open letter addressed to the Palestinians living in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The reference to Oslo was to the site where Israeli and PLO negotiators worked out in secret the autonomy accord which was formally signed in Washington in September.

"We will not allow a handful of us (Palestinians) to continue negotiations with those murderers at the expense of the Palestinian people,"

## Israeli officials threaten to act against Orient House

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli officials said Friday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Jerusalem has served notice that it owes nearly \$300,000 in back taxes, which the right-wing mayor vowed to collect.

The PLO centre, known as Orient House, is where Palestinians meet to coordinate their strategy on peace talks and where visiting foreign dignitaries are received.

It also serves as a defacto city hall for Palestinians, who make up 150,000 of the city's population of 564,000.

"The municipality of Jerusalem turned to them to pay all their debts as they turn to all those who have unpaid bills, and there are many who are in arrears. We understand the Orient House will pay," said Tirza Frenkel, spokeswoman for the municipality.

PLO officials were not available for comment. But the PLO's top official, Faisal Husseini, warned against any tax raid by police, saying the building contained sensitive documents related to peace negotiations.

Shmuel Meir, the deputy mayor in charge of finances, said the Orient House owes \$79,558.32 Israeli shekels in back property taxes and water bills.

"This is part of an overall operation to get back taxes," Mr. Meir said, adding the city was owed about 200 million shekels (\$67 million).

Mr. Meir belongs to the National Religious Party, which opposes the PLO-Israeli peace accord.

The Israeli mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert, a senior figure in the Likud party who unseated Teddy Kollek last year, vowed in an interview with wire services last month to force the Orient House to pay back taxes.

"Why should they be exempted?" Mr. Olmert said. "If anyone on the east side of Jerusalem doesn't pay, we will find a way to enforce it."

Mr. Olmert would not say if he would seek a court order or ask police to act on the tax matter.

## U.S. says Syria protecting its Jews against threats

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Syrian government is taking unspecified action to protect the country's dwindling Jewish community against a death threat, the State Department said Thursday.

The threat that Jewish blood would be spilled at the end of Ramadan was contained in a pamphlet two American Jewish groups brought to the department's attention.

Department officials checked with the U.S. embassy in Damascus and were informed Syrian authorities were aware of the threat and "had taken actions to protect Jewish residents," the department said in an announcement.

Officials said the first report from the embassy did not explain what the government was doing in behalf of its Jewish citizens.

The Council for the Rescue of Syrian Jews and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations said the pamphlets were distributed by the Syrian Muslim Party of Justice.

State Department officials said they were not aware of such an organisation.

There are about 1,000 Jews in Syria. Most have requested and received exit permits from the government. President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher had interceded in their behalf with President Hafez Al Assad and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharara in December and January.

According to the Jewish organisations, the letter described the Jews as criminals and in an apparent reference to the attack by a Jewish extremist on a mosque in Hebron Feb. 25, called Jews cowards who "shoot bullets on the victims when they are praying."

Threatening revenge, the leaflet ended with the declaration that "the blood of all Jews living in Syria will be spilled starting on Sunday, the 13th of March 1994."

Seymour D. Reich of the conference of presidents said "we expect that our government, which has been very helpful in the past in interceding for Syrian Jews, will move very swiftly to demand that President Assad of Syria take immediate steps to prevent the threatened bloody onslaught."

## Clinton optimistic Mideast peace talks will resume

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Halting the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks would reward the "madman" he gunned down more than 50 worshippers in a mosque in Hebron, President Clinton said Thursday.

Expressing optimism that the talks will resume despite the enormous political pressures on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and especially on Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, Mr. Clinton said "the surest way to hand a victory to the madman who killed all the Palestinians in the mosque" is to fail to resume the talks scheduled to take place in Washington this week.

White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said Arafat is sending Nabil Shaath to Washington to discuss timing for resumption of the discussions on implementing the declaration of principles signed by Israel and the PLO last year at the White House.

After the Israeli gunman fired into Muslim services at the mosque, Mr. Clinton summoned negotiators from both sides to Washington, urging them to keep talking until implementation was agreed upon, but the ensuing unrest has delayed the discussions, which had been scheduled to begin March 2.

At issue is the transfer of authority from Israeli occupation forces in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank towns of Jericho to Palestinian civil rule. Among the issues outstanding after several rounds of talks in Egypt, according to U.S. officials, are the economic relationship between Israel and the new entity, the role of Palestinian police, and control of entry points.

Mr. Clinton told questioners that allowing the talks to founder would hand a victory

to extremists in Israel and among Palestinians. "I think we can get them back on track," Mr. Clinton said of the discussions. "If the peace talks don't get back on track, then we are rewarding the damage and the death wreaked by the extremists. We don't want to do that."

The president said Mr. Rabin has made "a good beginning" for resumption of the talks. He said he understands the "very deep and profound" ethnic and religious difficulties which fuel continuation of conflict in the Mideast and elsewhere, but he cited the March 1 federation agreement among Croatia, the Bosnian government and the Bosnian Croats as an example of what can be done when "we just keep working at these things and do our best to try to bring them to a successful conclusion."

Mr. Clinton has called Rabin, King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to discuss methods of keeping the peace process viable. Myers said the president, in each of the telephone calls, "is asking everybody to keep working toward peace, to participate in the process."

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, asked at a Senate hearing Wednesday about the Israeli government's reaction to the Hebron killing, said the United States hopes and expects that Israel will move aggressively to implement the steps outlined by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Christopher said he talked with Rabin March 1, and "I have absolute confidence that he will carry out the commitments that he has made."

Mr. Rabin has "never even come close to violating a commitment that he made to me or

an understanding that we have, so I look to him to be as resolute about carrying out those commitments as he has been in the past," the secretary stressed.

Mr. Christopher said he hopes the "terrible incident" at Hebron will have a catalyzing effect on the Israeli-PLO peace process and cause the parties, finally, to address the underlying problems and to implement the declaration of principles.

He stressed that any pause in the peace effort is to the benefit of the extremists. "They are able to exploit delay, pointing out to the people on the ground that the present circumstances are not causing any progress, and thus urging people there to turn to more extreme measures," the secretary said.

"I do hope that after a short period of time... in which there is a cooling of tempers, that the parties will get back to the table and promptly finish the implementation agreement," he said.

Later in the day Mr. Christopher told reporters that he would be meeting today with Dr. Shaath, the special envoy of Mr. Arafat. "We'll be discussing ways that the parties can resume the negotiations," he said.

The secretary noted that the Palestinians need a greater sense of security than they presently have, and "I'm sure we'll be discussing ways to do that. I'm glad that he's coming at this time so we'll have an opportunity to explore the matters that you can only do face-to-face."

Mr. Christopher said he expects to be in touch with Mr. Arafat before leaving Washington. Friday on an Asian trip.

## Ghali: U.N. observers could calm West Bank

UNITED NATION (USIA) — Secretary General Boutros Ghali has said that even some type of U.N. civilian observers in the occupied territories help ease tensions.

Speaking with journalists after a Security Council debate on the Hebron massacre, the secretary general said that the idea of international observers came from "a long conversation I had with the prime minister of Israel."

He said he believes a United Nations presence "may help to defuse the tension. We have done this in South Africa and both Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk recognised that the presence of the United Nations — which was very symbolic — had helped to defuse the tension."

The secretary general stressed that any U.N. force can only be done with the agreement of the Israelis as well as the Palestinians, that he cannot impose observers without the agreement of the two parties.

Dr. Ghali said he made it "quite clear" in a letter sent to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin after the Hebron massacre last week "that if he agrees, we are ready to send a group of — I even used the word 'a presence' — which could be a group of civilians."

"In South Africa, the people that were there were civilian and had no relation with the United Nations forces or even military observers," he said.

The Security Council is still working on a draft resolution, one element of which could authorize observers.

## Jordanian suspect in New York attack described as hardworking businessman

By Jamal Halaby The Associated Press

ZARQA — The family of Bassam Reyati, one of two Jordanians arrested after the attack on a van full of Hasidic Jews in New York, describe him as "a diligent kid" who is more interested in business than politics or religion.

"He is a sweet boy who always liked to help people and never encouraged violence or hatred against anybody," Mr. Reyati's 55-year-old father, Moussa, said Thursday.

Bassam Reyati, 27, and another Jordanian identified as Hani Mohammad, 32, were arrested Wednesday and charged with weapons possession and hindering prosecution in Tuesday's shooting on the Brooklyn Bridge. The attack left a Jewish teenager brain-dead and wounded three other members of the Hasidic sect.

Rashad Baz, a 28-year-old Lebanese who worked for Mr. Reyati's car service, was charged with the actual shooting and held without bail.

Moussa Reyati was on the verge of tears, shaking his head in disbelief after learning of his son's arrest.

"I raised this boy, and I know he is not militant," the father said, looking tired from the sunrise-to-sunset fasting during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. "He was always interested in making something of himself in life."

Bassam's cousin, Salah Kurdi, concurred.

"I have been in constant touch with Bassam ever since he arrived in the United States eight years ago," said Mr. Kurdi, 33, a U.S. resident who is visiting Jordan.

"He worked for me for six months in 1987, and he was an example of a diligent kid who wanted to succeed and make money," said Mr. Kurdi, who owns a contracting firm in Chicago.

Mr. Kurdi said he never considered Bassam a devout Muslim.

"He used to pray once in a blue moon," Mr. Kurdi said. "He's just the kind of a man who is interested in making more money, better business and better life. He never discussed any politics with me," Mr. Kurdi said.

Bassam's brother, Mohammad, 26, said Bassam entered the United States on a tourist

visa in 1986 and later changed it to a student visa. He said Bassam entered an aviation school in Texas but could not finish his course because of financial problems.

Mr. Kurdi said Bassam "relied on himself and worked hard until he made some money and bought a car company, the Pioneer Car Service, in Brooklyn."

Moussa Reyati, a retired army officer who runs a garment shop in Zarqa, said he last heard from his son two weeks ago.

"He called to inform us to expect him for next week's Eid Al Fitr," the Muslim feast marking the end of Ramadan, the father said.

Bassam's mother listened at the kitchen door as her husband spoke to a reporter at their hilltop home in a relatively affluent neighbourhood.

The family was unaware of Bassam Reyati's arrest until an Associated Press reporter located them in Zarqa, a mining city 27 kilometres northeast of Amman.

But the details of the Zarqa family and the Pioneer Car Service Bassam Reyati operated in Brooklyn meshed with

reports from New York. Bassam is the eldest of seven children of the Reyati family, originally from Aqaba on Jordan's Red Sea coast.

A cousin, Badr Reyati, is a member of Jordan's Parliament from Aqaba.

The legislator said he did not know anything about Bassam Reyati.

The Reyati family was traced by telephoning every Reyati listed in the Jordanian telephone book, but inquiries produced no clues to the background of Hani Mohammad, the other Jordanian arrested in the Brooklyn shooting.

A New York police spokesman, John Miller, said Mr. Reyati and Mr. Mohammad were believed to have helped the lone gunman dispose of the weapons and car used in the attack on the Hasidic Jews.

In Mr. Reyati's Brooklyn apartment, detectives found a bulletproof vest and a cache of weapons, including those used in the attack, New York police said.

The car used by the gunman was found near a Brooklyn car repair shop owned by Mr. Mohammad, his brother Baker Mohammad said in New York.

## Visitors throng for view of royal mummies

CAIRO (AP) — A select group of Egypt's royal mummies made a tumultuous return to public life Tuesday in the Egyptian museum's refurbished mummy room.

Officials hope the crowd-pleasing kings and queens, hidden away for 14 years, once again will beckon visitors to Egypt and ally damage to the tourist industry wrought by anti-government violence of Muslim extremists.

Tourism, formerly the country's top money earner, is off at least 70 per cent.

If their debut is any indication, the mummies' will be powerful tourists incentives. Flocks of visitors led by Atef Sedki, Egypt's prime minister, poured into the room ironically designed to mimic the eerie silence of a tomb.

Across the hallway, the

usually jammed exhibits of Pharaoh Tutankhamun's treasures were all but deserted.

The mummies' overwhelming reception overwhelmed the museum's mummy expert, Nasry Iskander, attempting to bring sanity to the throngs.

"I'm worried about the mummies' safety," he said.

But the pushing and shoving did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the tourists.

"Awesome," was the reaction of Australia's Bryan Barnes, one of the first visitors inside the mummy room. He and his wife Pat had arrived in Egypt only two days earlier from Melbourne.

Eleven royal mummies are on display, including the father and son team Seti I and Ramses II — the first step in what could be the whole royal mummy parade of 33 kings,

queens, princes, prophets and 10 mummies of lesser rank.

Mr. Iskander, who has worked with the long-dead royalty for decades, ranks the mummies with the Sphinx as unique Egyptian treasures.

"The mummies are a dream," Mr. Iskander said. "Imagine how wonderful it is for history to have famous personalities right before you. When you look at the mummies, you get a feeling you know the person. It's something unbelievable."

Though the Egyptian museum has mummies galore, it's the royal collection that attracts the masses. First displayed in 1958, the royals ranked among Egypt's top tourist attractions.

But in 1980 the mummies disappeared after President Anwar Sadat made an offhand

remark that exhibiting such important historic figures offended him.

Ever since, museum officials sought ways to exhibit the mummies with dignity while allowing public access.

"For most people the mummies aren't distasteful or just dead bodies," said James Harris of the University of Michigan, who has used X-rays to search for royal mummy secrets since 1967.

They're a "distinguished population indeed," he said.

Decked out in individually designed showcases, wrapped in simple tan shrouds, only their necks, heads and arms accentuated by subtle lighting, the royal mummies bear no relation to the hideous, fully exposed specimens Sadat saw.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77111-10	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Les Aventures De L'Espace
17:41	L'Ecole Des Fous
18:30	Beaumarchais
19:00	News in French
19:15	Ushuaia
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	Family Matters
21:30	News in Arabic
22:00	Local Programme
22:15	News in English
22:50	Feature Film "A Thousand Heroes"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:41	Fajr
12:30	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:48	Dhuhr
15:04	Asr
15:37	Maghrib
18:54	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish, Tel. 610741	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 62735	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62450	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62740	
De la Saule Church Tel. 62236	
Terrence Church Tel. 62236	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62541	
Anglican Church Tel. 63051. Tel. 62843	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625250	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 604195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 62364, 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology:	
Warm weather conditions will prevail with winds becoming southeasterly in moderate, in Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	7/21
Jericho	13/20
Deserts	5/23
Jordan Valley	11/24
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman	

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

man 21, Aqaba 20, Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mahdi Mazhar	630428
Dr. Nasser Berhan	631030
Dr. Mohamad Al Jaza	752771
Dr. Shawaib Abu Zarad	777962
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	773336
Al Asema pharmacy	637455
Narouah pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmezzani pharmacy	637660
Najib pharmacy	647632
IRBID:	
Dr. Ahmad Qam	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	680100
Water Authority	774111
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
ZARQA:	
Dr. Yousef Abu Sa'd	989005
Khalid Hospital	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Flood Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Roscoe Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	63021
Hotel Complaints	606800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overpass Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	680100
Water Authority	774111
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381

## Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20	Vienna (OA)
10:30	Sanaa (TY)
12:35	Rome (AZ)
18:45	Dubai (EY)
22:10	Paris, Damascus (AF)
23:15	Amsterdam (KL)
23:25	Cairo (MS)

## DEPARTURES

### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

#### (Terminal 1)

06:40	Beirut (RJ)
07:00	Amman (RJ)
11:20	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:25	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
11:45	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:45	London (RJ)
13:45	Cairo (RJ)
20:49	Larnaca (RJ)
21:15	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:30	Jeddah (RJ)
21:40	Damascus (RJ)
21:50	Jeddah (RJ)
21:50	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

08:15	Beirut (RJ)
11:20	Sanaa (TY)
11:40	Larnaca (CY)
13:45	Vienna (OA)
18:35	Rome (AZ)
19:45	Dubai (EY)
23:05	Damascus (RJ) (AF)
00:15	Amsterdam (KL)
00:30	Cairo (MS)

## HIAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman	8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus	5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus	7:00 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman	5:00 p.m. every Sunday

## MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	550 / 650
Banana	680
Cabbage	620
Carrot	70 / 45
Cauliflower	200/220
Celentenne	160 / 100
Cucumbers	250 / 200
Cucumbers (large)	140 / 80
Cucumbers (small)	250 / 200
Eggplant	2500 / 180
Garlic	200/220
Grape Fruit	220/120
Green beans	1000/ 60
Lemon	180 / 100
Marrow (large)	500 / 200
Marrow (small)	700/500
Olives (green)	470/ 120
Onion (dry)	350 / 300
Onion (green)	400 / 250
Pepper (hot)	400 / 180
Pepper (sweet)	400 / 240
Potato	340 / 170
Tomato	150 / 100
Tomato	220 / 120
Spinach	140 / 80
String beans	1100 / 700





FRIDAY PRAYERS: His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan perform Friday prayers at Al Tabba Mosque. Friday's sermon was delivered by the Armed Forces mufti. The mufti said the fasting month of Ramadan is a symbol of the unity of the nation and he called on Muslims to observe the teachings of Islam. Also attending the prayer were Their Royal

Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, and Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, as well as Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the prime minister, speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, the Chief Chamberlain and senior civil and military officials.

## Heavy rains expected — Abanda

AMMAN (Petra) — An atmospheric depression over Jordan and the eastern Mediterranean region is expected to bring heavy rains and a drop in temperature starting Sunday, according to Ali Abanda, director of the Department of Meteorology.

The depression, centred over the Black Sea, was moving steadily towards the eastern Mediterranean accompanied by a cold front which will cause high winds and rain, said Dr. Abanda.

Rainfall last month reached 70 per cent of the annual average in some regions of the Kingdom, said Dr. Abanda, adding that a few governorates in the south registered above average rates. The rainfall in the northern regions as well as in Amman, Mafrq and Zarqa governorates was below the annual average, Dr. Abanda said. He said that this far this winter most of the rain fell in the Karak, Tafleeh and Ma'an governorates.

Al Rabbat town near Karak received the highest cumulative amount of rainfall with 321.3 millimetres, accounting for 127 per cent of the total annual average up to March 1, 1994.

The lowest cumulative amount, he said, fell in Jafr which so far received 82.7 millimetres this winter.

## Special interest panel organises measures to protest sales tax

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A special committee lobbying against the proposed sales tax draft law has brought together eight political parties, various professional unions and thousands of citizens in a campaign to pressure deputies into rejecting the controversial legislation.

The committee has already started measures of protest against the draft legislation, including organising a sit-in in front of Parliament when deputies debate the draft law, according to Deputy Khalil Haddadin, the committee spokesman.

"We are organising a mass protest outside Parliament on the day the draft law is to be debated," Mr. Haddadin told the Jordan Times Thursday. He said parties involved in the campaign have been active in raising public awareness about the importance of the issue and are collecting signatures to a petition demanding that the new tax be rejected.

According to the committee, the proposed tax law does not serve the interest of the country or its citizens and threatens Jordan's national industries.

The committee calls for encouraging investment in new local industries, which would contribute to reducing unemployment. If the proposed draft law is endorsed, said Mr. Haddadin, such industries would be negatively affected.

He added that the committee, like the government,

would like to see a reduction in the budget deficit. But he said that could only be achieved by minimising government expenditure and maximising income through increasing customs on imported luxury items used by a limited sector of society which can afford such items. "This gives more room for local industry to prosper," added the deputy.

President of the Finance Committee at the Lower House of Parliament Ali Abul Ragheb said Friday that many sectors of society have "major reservations" about the proposed tax.

Mr. Abul Ragheb said that the finance committee has held extensive meetings with different political and popular groups, Chamber of Commerce officials, professional unions and the Consumer Protection Society to hear out their views on the draft law, which the House referred to the committee on Feb. 16.

He told the Jordan Times that the committee will make "major modifications" to the law before it sends it back to the House with its recommendations. Mr. Abul Ragheb said the committee will take into consideration "the requirements" of the government as well as economic sector.

"The committee will come up with moderate and acceptable (recommendations) to all sectors of society, said Mr. Abul Ragheb who expected the draft legislation to be sent back to the House early this week.

Mr. Haddadin expressed faith in the deputies' "ability to recognise what serves the interest of Jordan and its citizens."

Many observers believe that the House will introduce minor amendments to the draft law before eventually approving it despite the strong opposition that Islamist and leftist deputies are expected to raise.

The draft legislation, which is a requirement of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)-orchestrated social and economic reform programme would replace the Consumption Tax which Deputy Abdul Karim Kabarti called "a sword in the hands of the government."

The Consumption Tax was introduced in 1992, but the government argues many negative aspects appeared when it was implemented. It said the new tax would remove those "negative elements."

Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh presented the draft law to the House on Feb. 16 as an "important part of the economic reform programme" which, he said, would enable the country "to receive foreign aid, maintain the stability of the dinar and build the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves."

But the government's justification did little to ease the opposition of Islamic Action Front (IAF) and other deputies who said the draft law would increase the tax burden and raise the cost of living for limited income people.

## Customs legislation amendments to simplify procedures

By Ziad Al Shilleh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Legislation Bureau at the Prime Ministry is currently discussing amendments to the 1983 Provisional Customs Law No. 16 which are aimed at facilitating and simplifying customs procedures in line with related laws and the latest economic developments in Jordan and the region, according to Director General of the Customs Department Mohammad Al Jarraf.

In an interview with Al Ra'i Arabic daily and the Jordan Times, Mr. Jarraf said the proposed amendments seek to distinguish between customs and smuggling violations and to correct some outdated provisions.

Under the amendments, fines for violations of customs laws will be reduced from 200 per cent and 300 per cent of the customs duties to 25 per cent or 100 per cent of the fees. Fines for inaccuracies in export statements will be reduced from 100 per cent and 400 per cent to a minimum of 100 per cent and a maximum 200 per cent of the customs fees.

On goods used for purposes other than those for which they were imported, fines will be reduced to no less than 25 per cent and no more than 100 per cent of the customs duties payable. Fines on sales of goods for which duties were not paid, pending the settlement of their status, or exchanging or disposing of them illegally will be reduced to a minimum of 100 per cent and a maximum of 200 per cent.

Delay fines will be increased to speed up customs clearance.

Fines on temporary admission will be reduced and fines for inaccuracies in the manifests will be reduced to a minimum of 10 per cent and a maximum of 100 per cent of the duties, down from 100 to 300 per cent of the value of goods and duties together.

The fine on imports exempt from customs or subject to reduced tariffs, which are used for purposes other than those for which they were imported, will be decreased from 100-400 per cent to 25 per cent of the fees.

Fines on smuggled goods will be increased from 300 per cent to 600 per cent of the fees. Vehicles used to transport smuggled goods will be fined no more than 50 per cent of the value of the smuggled items, provided that such fines does not exceed the value of the vehicle itself.

The amendments authorise the director general of the Customs Department or his designate to dismiss smuggling cases not exceeding JD 250. The amendments also delegates some of the powers of the Minister of Finance to the director general of customs

## Visiting Greek minister warns that peace talks are vulnerable to collapse

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, on a Middle East tour representing the European Union (EU), warned that Jewish and Islamist extremists are on the rise and urged support for the Israeli government and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

In a meeting with Jordanian officials the top Greek diplomat, who left Amman to Israel at the end of his two-day visit here Thursday evening, warned that the two sides are in vulnerable positions following the massacre of Palestinian worshippers by a Jewish settler in Hebron. He said the situation could lead to the collapse of the Middle East peace process.

"The Minister said that there was no escape from saving Mr. Arafat politically," Foreign Ministry Secret-

ary General Navef Hadid told the Jordan Times in an interview.

"He also underlined that vulnerability of the Labour government in Israel and said that if we do not cooperate, it will weaken and maybe collapse," Mr. Hadid said.

"He said he believed that the Hebron massacre was a gift from the skies to fundamentalists," Mr. Hadid quoted Mr. Papoulias as saying.

According to the senior official, Mr. Papoulias had said during his meetings here Thursday that the EU would like to see Middle East peace negotiations continue and lead to a "state in the occupied West Bank."

The Greek official met with His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan as well as several top politicians including Lower House of Parliament

Speaker Taher Al Masri.

Mr. Papoulias also told officials that the European Union of nations would also want to see "the disarming of Jewish settlers."

Mr. Hadid, said that Mr. Papoulias had told Jordanian officials that EU member countries "were worried" by the Hebron massacre and believe that the Middle East area is passing through "difficult times."

Mr. Papoulias, who arrived in Amman late Wednesday from Tunis, told reporters that the EU supported PLO calls for protection of Palestinians in the occupied territories and disarming of Jewish settlers.

"International presence is a basic condition and disarming the Jewish settlers is another condition," the official news agency (Petra) quoted the Greek diplomat as saying.

"The minister said that all

effort has to be extended to finding a solution because there is no other option," Mr. Hadid quoted Mr. Papoulias as saying.

According to Petra, Mr. Papoulias delivered to King Hussein written messages from the EU and Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu. He also carried a verbal message from Greece's President Constantine Karamanlis.

According to sources, Mr. Papoulias underlined the importance of the democratic process in the Kingdom and expressed concern that economic conditions have to improve in order to consolidate democracy.

"He said he hoped that the embargo on the port of Aqaba," as a condition to improving the economic situation in the Kingdom, one of the sources told the Jordan Times.

## Massacre victim recovering in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas Friday visited Mohammad Yusef Abul Halawa, one of the Palestinians who were wounded when Israeli settlers opened fire on Palestinian worshippers at Ibrahim Mosque, last Friday, killing more than 60 persons and injuring about 300. Dr. Malhas said that Mr. Abul Halawa was admitted to Al Hussein Medical Centre after a Cabinet decision to allow all those who were injured in the Hebron massacre to be treated at Jordanian hospitals at the expense of the Ministry of Health. Al Hussein Medical Centre Director Adel Shreideh said Mr. Abul Halawa was in stable condition, although the injury to his lower limbs and upper left arm were serious.

Mr. Abul Halawa described the massacre at the mosque as shocking and blamed the slaughter on Israeli soldiers. He said before the massacre he noticed that for the first time the number of Israeli soldiers at the entrances to the mosque were not large.

"At the inspection point at the Mosque, Muslim worship-



Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas, massacre victim Mohammad Yusef Abul Halawa (third from right) Friday visits Hebron Halawa (Petra photo)

pes were not searched which made the numbers increase, because when they see Israeli soldiers moving around the

mosque, they head to other mosques," he said. "What happened that morning was incredible... I heard a barrage of

fire.... and I was the first to be shot... I felt my back bleeding then I passed out," Mr. Abul Halawa said.

## Merchants complain draft tenancy law is unfair

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Several downtown Amman merchants have expressed "disappointment" with the Lower House of Parliament for approving Article 9 of the tenancy draft law, which they charged was "unfair" to tenants.

The article stipulates that landlords are allowed to evict tenants to expand their rented properties only if the building is 40 years old and if 12 years have elapsed since the signing of the lease. The article entitles tenants to a compensation 10 times the annual rent if evicted, and gives them the right to return to the property after the expansion is completed. It says merchants should also be compensated if the expansion

work is not completed within three years.

The merchants, who claimed they represent hundreds of downtown traders, said that the article gives landlords the right to evict tenants whenever they wished since most downtown buildings are over 40 years old. They added that the draft legislation does not differentiate between commercial and residential properties, and merchants could incur tremendous losses if Article 9 is applied.

"It takes years for merchants to build a good reputation and establish business relations, all of which can be shattered if property owners decide to kick tenants out," one of the merchants told the Jordan Times.

The traders said that all their appeals to deputies have been neglected although hundreds of their colleagues have been sent to all lawmakers and members of the Upper House of Parliament.

The merchants added that not only business owners could be harmed by this article of the draft law, but other citizens as well because it would result in unemployment for many who work for them.

They said the compensation for which tenants are entitled would not make up for the loss of business clients and credibility, pointing to key money that they would have to pay in order to rent new properties in commercial areas.

The choice of returning to the property after three years of eviction or receiving compensation is tricky and benefits only the landlords whose new lease rates would probably be ten times higher than the previous ones, said the merchants in an interview with the Jordan Times.

The traders said the same article of the draft legislation gives property owners the green light to demolish buildings that "our great grandfathers built and which constitute a very important part of our heritage."

The House, which approved 10 articles of the draft law after heated debates that extended over three sessions, is expected to endorse the 20-article draft legislation Sunday.

## ILO officials leave for Syria

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-member fact-finding team of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Friday left for Syria on the next leg of a tour in the Arab region to discuss Palestinian workers' conditions under Israeli occupation.

ILO Deputy Director for

Arab Affairs Shukri Dajani, who led the team, met here with Labour Minister Khaled Ghazawi and other officials to discuss the workers' issues as well as ILO-Jordanian relations.

Before leaving for Damascus, Mr. Dajani announced that the ILO plans to offer

assistance to workers' unions as well as workers in the occupied Arab lands.

Last December, the ILO decided to allocate a grant of \$250,000 to support the workers' activities; the ILO director has now proposed the allocation of \$1 million in further aid to the occupied Arab lands.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ☆ Art exhibition by artist Ghassan Ayyasrah at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Exhibition by artist Shaker Al Girmi entitled "Studies in the Jordanian Environment" at the Phoenix Art Gallery for Art and Culture.
- ☆ Plastic art exhibition by several artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Exhibition of Jordanian products at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Exhibition of works of art by the Arab Centre for Vocational Training at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Art exhibition by artist Jalal Ariqat at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. except Fridays).
- ☆ Art exhibition by several artists at the Alia Art Gallery (8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.).
- ☆ Exhibition of medical herbs at the Royal Cultural Centre.

- ☆ Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).
- ☆ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).
- ☆ Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.
- ☆ "Permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Fann of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman (Tel. 643251/2).
- ☆ Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

### DRAMA

- ☆ Drama entitled "A Mid-summer Night's Dream" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

### LECTURE

- ☆ Lecture in Arabic on the Islamic Movement by Mr. Ziyad Abu Ghanimeh at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 8:00 p.m.

Save water.... every drop counts!



## Jordan Times

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## Parking in space

IT IS a common scene nowadays to see cars being not only double parked on our streets but also triple parked, or simply parked anywhere. Some who shippers on Fridays, for example, view their right and duty to pray as a licence to block traffic. In retrospect, the fault lies mainly with the construction of places of worship, be they mosques or churches, where no adequate parking facilities are provided in the first place. People are often forced to park illegally since there are no spaces available for legal parking. What exacerbates the problem is either the absence of traffic police on busy days of prayers to control the severe parking situation, or the policemen's reluctance to act against violators, which can be understood but not condoned. It would seem that the Traffic Department could do a lot more in areas where there are no built-in facilities for public parking.

At least double and triple parking could be prevented in areas where they occur with impunity.

That impeded traffic could wreak havoc in emergency cases is well-known to all sides. Imagine if fire breaks out in a giant mosque or church and Civil Defence teams find no easy access to the fire-stricken building. In such a worse-case scenario, what might start out to be a controllable crisis could develop in a matter of seconds into a catastrophe engulfing a whole block of buildings and streets. Casualties could run into the hundreds, and panic could strike the capital like it did when the Safeway fire broke out.

One effective way to deal with this problem is to develop and enforce appropriate building codes according to which public places cannot be constructed without being supplied first with suitable parking facilities. Issuing licences for the construction of mosques and churches, not to mention other high-rise buildings, should be made contingent on the construction of basement parking areas big enough to cope with the potential parking problem. There is in fact legislation to this effect in the books, but it is not always enforced, and when it is, the end result is some ugly structures where cars are parked in ground-level floors rather than hidden underground. What is worse, in many cases, is that space allocated for parking in shopping centres being built around town is usually occupied by employees working at the centre itself. The public, or potential customers of banks and shops located in that centre, cannot use the parking space. They end up cruising the streets for long periods of time in search of a place in which they can leave their automobiles while attending their chores.

The intensifying problem of parking in the capital calls for a new approach encompassing zoning codes, licensing procedures and more effective traffic rules. Till that approach is formulated and adopted, driving and parking in Amman would continue to be a nightmare for most.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily said that the terrorist who killed the 63 worshippers at the Al Ibrahim Mosque was encouraged to do so by world community's passive attitude towards the atrocities committed against the Iraqi, the Somali and the Bosnian civilians. The paper said that with the killing of the Palestinians, the starvation of the Iraqis and the continued atrocities against the Muslims in Bosnia, the United States and its strategic ally, the Jewish state, are trying to peddle a sort of peace that can only serve their own interests and not world peace and security. By refusing to send peacekeeping troops to Palestine, the United Nations and the world community at large are opening the door for more massacres at the hand of the Israeli soldiers and settlers and, encouraging the Israeli leaders to remain adamant in their position at the peace negotiations, said the paper. The killing of the Palestinian worshippers and the continued atrocities against the Palestinian people are not the making of individual terrorists but rather a well orchestrated plot to annihilate the people of Palestine to ensure the perpetuation of Israeli occupation, added the daily. It said that the stationing of U.N. observers in the occupied territories can by no means provide protection to the defenceless Palestinian people.

THERE IS no doubt that Washington's invitation to the PLO and the Israeli government to resume talks in the United States was part of an American way of containing the Arab masses' anger at the barbaric crime committed by the Zionists at Al Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron, said Sawt Al Shaab daily.

By Dr. Mousa Keilani

## Will Rabin take the bull by its horn and remove settlements?

THE FEB. 25 massacre of Palestinians by a Jewish settler or settlers in a mosque in the occupied West Bank has served as more than a simple reminder to the political leaders of Israel that there cannot be any lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict as long as Jewish settlements remain in the occupied territories. The killings underlined the fact that the West Bank and Gaza Strip will remain under perpetual tension and a fuseless timebomb ready to explode if settlers, armed to the teeth, are free to roam around and enforce their kind of law.

The presence of never-say-die extremist, radical, hardline settlers (or "ultranationalists" as some call them) although Israeli "nationalism" has little to do with their choice to remain in subsidised housing units in the occupied lands is not new. It has been a feature of the Palestinian land since 1967. They were very much there when the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel signed their groundbreaking autonomy accord on Sept. 13, 1993.

But the Hebron massacre underlined the ill-founded hopes that Palestinian autonomy could take hold under the present conditions and prove to be a success, paving the way for mutual Palestinian-Israeli confidence and setting the ground for "final status" negotiations to address the root causes of the conflict.

Beyond that, and more importantly, the Hebron slaughter has cut deep into Palestinian and Arab support for the process that was launched with the signing of the September accord and rendered the PLO unable to proceed in its autonomy negotiations with Israel.

By extension, the other Arab parties in the peace process cannot and will not move either as they indicated last week when they walked out of the Washington bilaterals. And hence the conclusion that no matter how anyone look at it, the peace process is indeed deadlocked. Any further move forward depends on a mutually acceptable arrangement vis-a-vis the settlers and settlements and iron-clad guarantees that the Palestinians in the occupied territories will not be exposed to Israeli terrorism, state-sponsored or otherwise.

That is the Arab and Palestinian side of the affair. Equally significant is the fact that the Hebron carnage has ironically offered Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres exactly the right card they were looking for in their search for a justifiable ground to press the case against the settlers.

Indeed, such a conclusion is based on an assumption that Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres are sincere and honest in their

efforts to find an equitable, comprehensive, durable and just settlement to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. But in the absence of alternatives, the mainstream Arab thinking has no choice but to go along with the theory that public statements by Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres are politically laced, and that within themselves they are really interested in a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

No doubt, any Israeli politician, from any side of the political spectrum regardless of inclinations for a just peace, should know that the settlements always posed a major hurdle in any move towards settling the Palestinian problem. But the issue for those who wanted a just peace had always been how to go about addressing it without undermining their political fortunes.

But the Hebron massacre underlined the ill-founded hopes that Palestinian autonomy could take hold under the present conditions and prove to be a success, paving the way for mutual Palestinian-Israeli confidence and setting the ground for "final status" negotiations to address the root causes of the conflict.

Now Mr. Rabin and company have a strong card to press against Likudniks and other rightwingers for a crackdown on the settlers. What remains unclear is how they are going to handle the card.

For all purposes of public consumption, Mr. Rabin and Likeminded Israeli leaders have ruled out any dismantling of the settlements or including the issue of settlements in the autonomy negotiations.

But, armed with the knowledge that any just peace now depends on the shape and nature of settlements in the occupied lands, they have a golden chance to really take the bull by its horns and prove it not only to the Arabs and Palestinians but also to the international community that they

mean business.

Such an approach will serve several distinct purposes: — Removing one of the major hurdles that have plagued any effort for a just and lasting peace in the region.

— Shoring up the waning support for the peace process among the Palestinians, whether in the occupied territories or outside.

— Settling the dilemma of the PLO leadership, which wants to press ahead with the peace process but is unable to do so because of Palestinian opposition getting increased momentum in the headline campaign against the autonomy agreement; and

— Solving the problem of the other Arab parties, which, despite their commitment to a negotiated peace with Israel, are unable to move.

The Jordanian-initiated suspension of the latest round of bilateral talks is not a tactical move. The Kingdom feels as much pain and anguish over the Hebron massacre as anyone else, and any argument that its suspension of the talks with Israel came as an expression of solidarity with the PLO stand will only be half-truth. Of particular mention here is the fact that Jordan has been on the forefront of the Arabs for decades to repeatedly warn that Israeli settlements in the occupied territories pose a major problem in any effort for Arab-Israeli peace. The Kingdom's stand, in the days immediately prior to the startling disclosure of the secret Israel-PLO accord worked out in Oslo, was that the issue of settlements should be immediately negotiated as part of any substantial Arab-Israeli peace talks.

We hope Mr. Rabin and his Labour-led government, which has always been bogged down over its preoccupations with Israeli public opinion, would move swiftly to contain the threat that the Jewish settlers and their settlements pose to the peace process.

For once, a majority among the Israelis, as opinion polls indicate, feel that settlers are indeed a major hurdle towards achieving the tranquility and peace they all aspire for, and this gives relative freedom to the government to implement measures to contain the extremists. Any delay in adopting concrete action, much beyond the token dismantling of some 100 or settlers which does not serve any real purpose, would only undermine Israeli public opinion and make it harder for any concerted measure to eliminate the first and foremost problem in moving towards a solution based on "land for peace."

## THE WEEK IN PRINT

### Mideast peace impossible if settlements are not removed

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

REACTIONS to the massacre of more than 60 worshippers at Al Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron dominated most of the editorials and commentaries in the past week. But a host of domestic issues were also discussed by the local media.

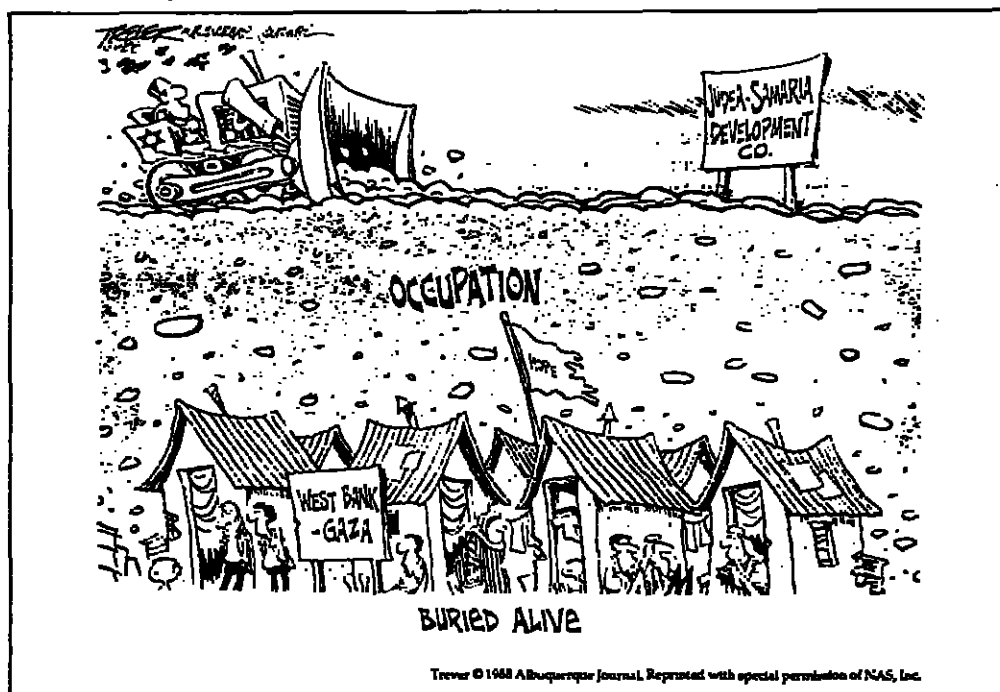
Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i, reviewed the numerous massacres and the atrocities committed by the Israelis since 1948, noting in particular the Deir Yassin massacre in which whole families were slain. The writer said that the series of massacres were committed by Zionist groups under the nose of the United Nations and in defiance of world community. Nothing, he said, was done to put an end to them. He said that as the leaders of Israel are now peddling their own version of peace, they did not abandon their old plots to end the presence of Arabs and Muslims in the Palestinian lands.

The Palestinians can reply to the massacre by stepping up the intifada on the one hand and stopping their negotiations with the Israelis on the other, said Taher Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour. The writer said that if there should be any negotiations, they must not focus on merely providing protection to the Palestinians or the withdrawal of Israelis from Jericho and Gaza. Rather they should aim at a lasting settlement ensuring the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the occupied Arab territories.

His views were echoed by Al Dustour columnist Saleh Al Qallab who said that the PLO should put an end to its negotiations with the Israelis and withdraw its recognition of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. The writer said that the Palestinians should unite their ranks and escalate their struggle for a complete withdrawal and a lasting peace. He further urged the Arab regimes to suspend their negotiations with the Israelis and be ready for a long war with the common enemy.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said, said that the Oslo deal should be amended to allow for an immediate discussion of Jewish settlers between the PLO and Israel. He said postponing the discussion of settlements until the end of the five-year autonomy rule is a mistake and the PLO should demand a final solution in this matter immediately.

Backing these views, Sultan Al Hartab said in Al Ra'i that there is no chance for the



Palestinians to co-exist with the Jewish settlements during or after the end of the autonomy rule in Palestine.

The writer said that the Hebron massacre leaves no question about the expected confrontations between the Palestinians and the Jews in Palestine.

Fahd Al Fanek expressed the view that the Israeli armed forces were part of the plot in Al Ibrahim Mosque since the crime bears the mark of the earlier massacres carried out by the terrorists led by Menachem Begin and others since 1948. The writer said that the shell that exploded in the middle of Sarajevo moved the NATO alliance to take action and protect the Bosnians, but the massacre in Hebron went unheeded by these world community. He urged the Arabs and Muslims of the world to reply to the massacre and end the presence of the Jewish settlers in Arab lands.

Calling for an end to the Israeli occupation of all Arab lands, Ibrahim Al Absi said in Al Ra'i that only by terminating the occupation of Palestinian land can peace prevail and no more blood be shed. As long as there are Jewish settlers living amidst the Arabs, the door will be open for the Jews to kill more Arabs in cold blood since there is no one to stop them from committing such crimes, said the writer.

Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, said that the Arabs and Muslims did nothing vis-a-vis the massacre in Hebron except for voicing condemnations and crying over their dead. The writer said deploring the mas-

sacre and demonstrating in support of the Palestinians are not the right tools for backing the oppressed people. He called for practical steps at the government and the popular levels to help provide protection to the Palestinian people and to enhance their steadfastness.

Salameh Ekour, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, said that the PLO leadership has failed in its quest to end the occupation and so it has opened the door for the Israelis to pursue their atrocities and commit massacres. He said that the PLO should refer the efforts to end the occupation to Egypt and Jordan which he claimed, are better qualified to regain the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel continues to commit crimes against the Arabs in Palestine in the name of or under the cover of working for peace with the Arab states, said Mun'as Razzaz, a columnist in Al Dustour. He said that the massacre committed in Hebron was the latest link in a long series of crimes which prove beyond doubt that peace with Israel is an imaginary thing that can never materialise.

A columnist in Al Dustour called on the concerned authorities in Jordan to take steps towards implementing a national strategy on combating drug addiction in the Kingdom. Mohammad Daoud said that despite police efforts and the measures to combat drug addiction and trafficking the number of dealers and addicts have been growing lately, especially among the youth. The writer said that the

police are not enough to handle this grave issue and other concerned authorities, especially the Ministry of Education, are called on to give a hand to stem drug abuse from the country.

Unlike a practice in other capitals, garbage collectors in Amman embark on their work in the morning and likewise do the workers who are involved in digging roads to lay cables or to asphalt the streets, said Nazih Qousus in Sawt Al Shaab. The writer said that these activities are done in many other capitals during the night so that they would not impede traffic or obstruct other activities that require attention during the day. The writer said that the Greater Amman Municipality, which wants to avoid further traffic congestions in Amman, should give the idea of garbage collection at night some thought.

Fahd Al Fanek warned the public that failure to impose the sales tax would bring about serious consequences to the country's economy. He said that the implementation of the sales tax draft law would mean that Jordan would not be able to reschedule its external debts or get new loans needed for socio-economic development. He said that the sales tax, which was agreed on with the International Monetary Fund, is part of an overall economic restructuring programme benefiting the economy and the Jordanian people in the long run. The writer said that the war waged by some people against the sales tax law is in fact directed against the country's economic and political future.

## Critics give 'Slick Willie' a new label — he's Reaganesque

THEY STILL call him "Slick Willie," and seldom miss an opportunity to criticise his policies or attack his personal character. Yet to their own surprise and frustration, some of Bill Clinton's Republican critics are applying another label to the President these days:

They say he is "Reaganesque."

What they mean is not that Mr. Clinton has adopted former President Reagan's conservative ideology but that he has the "Great Communicator's" seeming ability to defy political gravity.

Despite a drumbeat of controversy over his private conduct, the president has risen markedly in the public opinion polls. And, despite outspoken congressional opposition from Democrats as well as Republicans to key proposals such as health care reform, Mr. Clinton's foes no longer discount his capacity for an effective counterattack.

"A lesser politician," said Republican pollster Richard B. Whitliff, would have "crashed and burned a long time ago." Mr. Whitliff, a close adviser to Mr. Reagan while he was president, says that while he disagrees with Mr. Clinton on most major issues, he is "a superb politician."

Mr. Clinton's standing in the polls can be attributed partly to a rebounding economy. Also, many Americans who viewed him as a loser after his early setbacks in Congress have begun to change their minds following his successful uphill fight for the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Brady gun-control law.

However, some Republicans, as well as Mr. Clinton's own aides, attribute a large part of his political resilience to his personal style and skills. The former Arkansas governor has projected himself as an activist president who tackles major problems no matter how controversial. He has also been quick to exploit issues that start to zoom high on the public's agenda — whether they are traditionally associated with Democrats or with Republicans.

tive news stories. Americans tend to find that a likable quality in a president, political strategists agree.

Most recent polls show Mr. Clinton with relatively strong approval ratings, somewhere above 50 per cent, although much of his support is soft.

Next fall's congressional elections will inevitably be read as a referendum on his performance. And he faces all this with at least two question marks hanging over his head.

Character: The recurrent stories of Mr. Clinton's extramarital sexual exploits do not fit easily with traditional ideals of what a president should be. Moreover, Mr. Clinton's apparent impulse to try to talk his way out of difficult situations, to equivocate and be less than fully candid when he feels pressured, could yet erode public confidence in his trustworthiness.

Whitewater: The Arkansas real estate deal involving the first family remains a serious distraction and could become very damaging if the special counsel investigating the matter turns up legal or ethical violations.

So far, a majority of voters apparently have not construed these issues as indicative of Mr. Clinton's fundamental character. Concerned about the economy and their own futures — and predisposed to think well of their president — they have taken him as he presents himself — as an imperfect but well-meaning leader who is determined to confront long-festering national problems.

For his part, the president, in an interview broadcast Friday night on PBS' "Washington Week in Review," said "there is not one single shred of evidence that anybody here has tried to abuse the authority of the presidency, tried to use it for personal gain — not me not any of my top aides."

"There have been no scandals in this administration. And I was governor for 12 years — not a hint of scandal."

Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., who is credited with coining the phrase "Teflon president" to describe Mr. Reagan because negative news seldom stuck to him, describes the Clinton and his top White House aides as "Energiser rabbits," referring to the popular TV commercial character advertising batteries.

"They just pound, pound, pound, and keep right on going," she said. "You can say a lot about this president, but you can't say he's lazy."

Los Angeles Times



## U.S., Arab scholars collaborate on new Arabic-language encyclopedia

By Joanne L. Nix  
USIA Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Despite the historical and religious significance of Islam in the world, Arabic is the only major language without a comprehensive encyclopedia.

That deficiency will not last much longer, however, as Arab and American scholars are hard at work on producing the first Arabic International Encyclopedia. The 30-volume set, due to be completed in September, is based on the International World Book Encyclopedia. It will cover a variety of subjects but with a special focus on Islamic affairs.

According to Abdul Aziz Al Sweel, assistant cultural attaché of the Saudi Embassy in Washington, more than 3,000 scholars, reviewers and consultants from all over the Arab and Muslim World contributed to the project, which was sponsored and funded by Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Defence and Aviation.

Dr. Al Sweel said the project began in 1990 with a feasibility study conducted by Al Shuwaihat Translation and Educational Consultants (STEC), a privately owned Saudi Arabian company. "After nearly three years of research," Dr. Al Sweel said, "STEC concluded that because Arabic is widely used throughout the world, an Arab-language encyclopedia could become a vital part of Arab and Muslim culture."

After examining several English-language encyclopedias, a STEC team of experts determined that the 1992 international edition of World Book Encyclopedia was best suited to translation into Arabic. The American-published World Book Encyclopedia, which has a recognised appeal to both adults and children, is compiled annually by more than a thousand scholars.

Dr. Al Sweel said that since the encyclopedia is intended for use by Arabic-speaking people throughout the world, the translators have standardised terms and eliminated idioms. "The entire work (is in) classical Arabic, and articles and illustrations were added which pertain to Arab and Muslim readers," said Dr. Al Sweel. Additional space was allocated for more biographies of Muslim leaders as well as the geography, history, politics, sociology and literature of Arab and Muslim countries.

George Ferguson, a World Book representative who worked directly with Arab scholars on the encyclopedia project, said the Arabic International Encyclopedia will be updated periodically to incorporate new developments in the Muslim World. He pointed out that since it's first volume in 1917, the English-language World Book has been reviewed, updated and printed annually.

Mr. Ferguson said that during the preparation of the Arabic International Encyclopedia, a number of scholars reviewed the World Book material and edited or removed items that had no relevance to the Arabic-language audience. "The issues we faced — editorial content, copyrights, distribution and finance — were no different than any other project," he said.

The completed volumes will contain 15,000 pages with 25,000 colour illustrations of highly academic information — features that, according to Mr. Ferguson, make the product "revolutionary."

The international edition of World Book was first published in 1992 for marketing in countries such as Mexico, Egypt, India, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan — i.e., countries outside North America where English is the primary or a major secondary language.

The 22-volume, 12,000 page international edition is revised and reedited annually to retain a world view in text and illustrations. For the 1993 edition, more than 40 new articles and 2,000 partially revised entries were introduced relating chiefly to the people, history and local interests of the main readership countries. The works contain more than 27,000 illustrations and 1,900 maps.

A major part of the revision programme covers the 12 new countries which arose following the disintegration of the Soviet Union. And the continuing turmoil in former Yugoslavia led to much revision and new articles on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia.

The Arabic International Encyclopedia will be distributed throughout the Middle East and in countries with large numbers of Muslims, such as Indonesia, and in Africa.

By Rami G. Khouri  
Special to the Jordan Times

IF YOU drive by Tell Nimrin in South Shomch village in the Jordan Valley, which you have probably done many times, you are unlikely to recognise it as anything more than another large mound of dirt similar to thousands of others like it throughout the country. Archaeological excavations at the site by a joint Jordanian-American team have revealed, however, that this is no ordinary mound.

For hidden beneath the unexciting exterior of Tell Nimrin is an extraordinary layer-cake of successive village and town civilisations that have flourished in the Jordan Valley for nearly four thousand years. The available evidence now confirms that, except for a period of several hundred years when the site appears to have been abandoned in the Late Bronze Age (around 1500-1200 BC), Tell Nimrin seems to have been continuously inhabited for the past four millennia, from the Middle Bronze Age until today.

Judging from the ancient remains that have been excavated, including architectural walls, tools, pottery and thousands of seeds and other agricultural remains, the nature of the settlement at Tell Nimrin does not seem to have changed very much over this long span of time. It is predominantly an agricultural settlement today, and has been since the first time people built houses and lived there on a permanent basis at the start of the Middle Bronze Age (around 1900 BC).

The site of Tell Nimrin has been excavated since 1989 by a team headed jointly by David McCreery of Willamette University (Oregon, USA), James Flanagan of Case Western Reserve University (Ohio, USA) and Khair Yassine of the University of Jordan. The excavation have been sponsored and funded by the co-directors' home institutions, with additional funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the H.M. O'Neill Charitable Trust (Cleveland), the S.H. and Helen Scheuer Family Foundation (New York), the Catholic Biblical Association (Washington), the Atkinson Foundation (Willamette) and the Kyle-Kelso Foundation (Pittsburgh).

The north-western corner of the site was quickly excavated in the early 1980s by a team headed by Father Michele Piccirilli of the Franciscan Archaeological Mission to Jordan, after bulldozer cuts for the new road revealed a building with mosaics. Those excavations uncovered a 6th century AD Byzantine church that remained in use for some two centuries, well into the early Islamic Umayyad era.

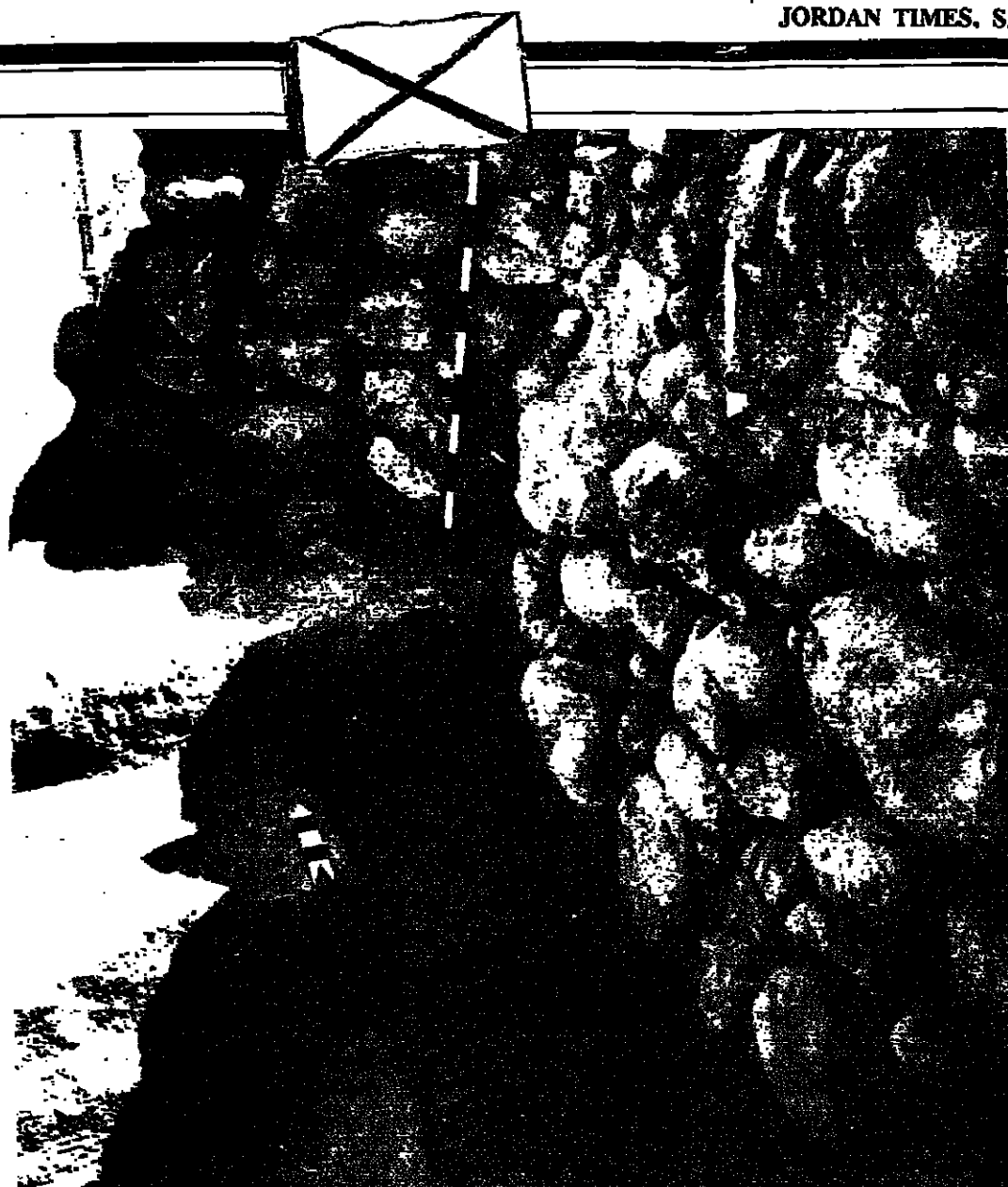
The church was built by the inhabitants of the town known as Bethamaria, which was mentioned in the writings of 4th Century AD Byzantine writers.

The third season of excavations in 1993 confirmed the long occupational history of the site, which is one of the main interests of the archaeologists.

"With such a long span of almost continuous human occupation of the same site," Dr. McCreery told the Jordan Times in a recent interview at Tell Nimrin, "we have a good opportunity to document how people and cultures changed — or perhaps did not change so much — over time. This is a very valuable opportunity to examine the physical remains, architectural structures and cultural practices of successive civilisations living on the same spot, and probably doing the same things in economic terms, over a period of 4,000 years."

Dr. Yassine adds that changing land use patterns over time are also a valuable source of information for archaeologists, historians and modern development planners alike.

The north of a 10th century B.C. stone wall which rests on a 16th century B.C. (Middle Bronze Age) mudbrick wall (photo by Rami Khouri)



## Excavations reveal 4,000 years of settled community activity at Tell Nimrin

Islamic Umayyad era. The church was built by the inhabitants of the town known as Bethamaria, which was mentioned in the writings of 4th Century AD Byzantine writers.

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Dr. Yassine adds that changing land use patterns over time are also a valuable source of information for archaeologists, historians and modern development planners alike.

"If we compare how different cultures used the same land over such a long span of time, we might get useful information about optimum land use today and in the future, especially in terms of agricultural production," he says.

Ironically, the road construction that sliced through the very northern edge of the site also revealed its importance. At the point of the bulldozer cuts, the archaeologists have been able to reveal over 12 metres of ancient occupational remains, including standing walls and intact floors.

Because the site is almost the same altitude as the nearby famous archaeological mound at Jericho, the excavators expected to find Neolithic/Chalcolithic remains (8500-3300 BC), but none have been identified to date at Tell Nimrin. The earliest evidence of human activity are a few scattered pottery sherds from the Early Bronze Age IV period (around 2300-2000 BC). These were found on the surface of alluvial gravels that are typical of the alluvial fans in the Jordan Valley, at points where side wadis spill onto the valley floor. These earliest sherds

may have been from pottery used by people who passed through the area or stopped there, perhaps to use an ancient spring or to draw water from the Wadi Shueib which runs right past the site.

The earliest evidence for settled life at Tell Nimrin is a series of stone and mudbrick walls from the Middle Bronze period (1900 BC), associated with tabuns (cooking ovens), seeds and other botanical remains. Around 1600-1500 BC, the people living at the site built some massive walls that comprised 10 courses of stones on which were stacked another 19 courses of mudbricks. One wall that was excavated at the end of the 1993 season was exposed to 16 stone courses deep, and the bottom of the wall had not been reached. Some of these walls are three metres thick and over four metres high — impressive by any historical standards — but their function is not yet clear.

They do not appear to have been city fortifications because they do not encircle the tell, but cut into it; the most likely theory is that they were part of a large civic structure located at the edge of the site — perhaps a religious temple, a palace-like residence or

a storage facility for grain (though the last possibility seems less likely in view of the sparse botanical evidence associated with this structure).

The historical gap in occupation at Tell Nimrin occurs just after this period, when the site seems to have been abandoned throughout the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age (1500-1100 BC) — for reasons that are not yet known, but could relate to regional insecurity, environmental changes or economic stress.

The next period of occupation is in the early Iron Age, in the 10th Century BC, when villagers built stone and mudbrick houses and engaged in extensive agricultural work. One room dating from the late 10th Century BC (950-925 BC) was clearly used to store agricultural produce, as evidenced by rich botanical remains such as barley, wheat, lentils, chickpeas and other produce. Stone walls uncovered at the northern edge of the site may have been part of the casemate defensive system of the village, which appears to have been destroyed at the end of the Iron I period (one theory suggests this destruc-

tion was at the hands of an invading Egyptian Pharaoh perhaps around 918 BC).

There is evidence for continuous occupation of the site throughout the Iron Age, from around 1000 BC to the start of the Persian period (550-332 BC). Many walls and associated surfaces, tabuns, storage pits and other remains indicate that a succession of agricultural cultures lived in permanent villages at Tell Nimrin; in some periods (such as the 8th Century), the site may only have supported squatter occupation or an open-type tent settlement with little stone architecture. This is a typical pattern of occupation for the Iron Age throughout the valley, and is documented at other major sites such as Tell Deir Alla and Tell Mazar.

The settlement seems to have been destroyed or abandoned at the end of the 7th century BC, but was inhabited again throughout the entire Persian Period (550-332 BC). Architectural remains have been uncovered from the 6th and 5th centuries, and several ostraca (inscribed pottery sherds) with Aramaic script may indicate the presence of a building that was used as an administrative or commercial centre. Many storage jars in the Persian period, like all other periods at the site, suggest that Tell Nimrin's agricultural importance may have been complemented by its strategic value as a military settlement.

Evidence for occupation during the Hellenistic period comprises only a few pottery sherds, with no architecture from that time yet uncovered. Almost the same situation pertains for the Roman period, which revealed well preserved strata and some remains of architecture, though most of the architecture from the Roman era has been destroyed by modern bulldozing activity.

The Byzantine town is well attested by the church and other wall fragments that sit right on top of the Persian layers. There are also many pits, coins, silos and other elements dating from the Byzantine town. Byzantine coins found at Tell Nimrin were struck during the reigns of the emperors Valens, Valentinian I, Leo, Zeno, Basiliscus and Anastasius, from the mid-4th to the early 6th centuries AD.

On the western edge of the tell the excavators identified Umayyad structures such as water channels, terracing, walls and some sherds. Clearly, at Tell Nimrin as in the rest of Jordan, there was continuity of settlement from the Byzantine to the Umayyad periods. Later Islamic periods are attested by some Abbasid pottery sherds and some Ayyubid-Mamluk structures, terrace walls, sherds and botanical remains.

## Israeli troops, settlers kill four

(Continued from page 1)

had enough already."

Israel released 1,000 Palestinian prisoners this week, hoping to quell the violence and coax the PLO back to the peace talks.

It was also finally driven to curb militant settlers of the Kach movement and its spin-off, Kahane Lives, which have long operated with impunity in rampages against Arabs.

Authorities have arrested two Kach leaders and tried to disarm 18 others, but the crackdown by police and army has been poorly coordinated.

Four wanted Kach leaders

have evaded a dragnet that is becoming something of a farce as they pop out of hiding to thumb their noses at authorities by giving clandestine TV interviews.

The radical settlers, a minority among the 120,000 Jews living in 144 settlements, have vowed to resist attempts to disarm them.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres declared Friday: "We shall not hesitate to use measures against anyone who's dangerous."

Syria urges U.N. action

Syria urged the U.N. Security Council Friday to send an international force to protect

Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"Peace in the Middle East could only be achieved by the full withdrawal of Israeli forces and settlers from the occupied Arab lands," a Syrian official said.

"Until the withdrawal is made the Security Council has a duty and responsibility to send an international force to protect the Palestinian people because the Hebron massacre was not the first and will not be the last," he said.

The U.N. Security Council has so far failed to reach agreement on the wording of a resolution that would condemn

the Hebron massacre.

Syria and other Arabs cut short the latest round of negotiations with Israel in Washington in protest against the massacre.

Iran's spiritual leader Friday blamed Israel and the United States for the Hebron massacre and castigated Arab governments for their failure to react more strongly. Tehran Television reported.

Speaking in a sermon at Tehran University, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said the incident was very painful to Muslims, and that "we believe that the usurper Zionist regime was directly responsible for it."

## Shaath: U.S. backs armed presence

(Continued from page 1)

would attempt to push the Israeli government beyond the steps taken by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and denounced by the PLO as inadequate. They include authorising the arrest without charges of Jews the Israeli government deems extremist and the disarming of some radicals.

Without providing specific examples, Dr. Shaath told reporters: "I hope to accomplish measures that would enhance the security of the Palestinian people after this grisly massacre at Hebron, that will enable us to continue this peace process with success."

He said the PLO was at the point of signing an agreement with Israel to bring self-rule to Palestinians in Jericho and Gaza before the Hebron incident. "This requires some measures that I hope the administration will support in the (U.N.) Security Council and

other areas."

"We want the peace process to continue and succeed because this is the only guarantee that we will have real security in the long run," the PLO negotiator said.

Mr. Christopher has tried to persuade Mr. Arafat to accept Mr. Clinton's invitation by telephoning him three times since the mosque attack, heaping praise on the PLO leader and sternly demanding Mr. Rabin act swiftly on measures approved by his cabinet to restrain radical settlers.

Mr. Christopher has also hinted he may support some international presence temporarily in the occupied territories.

"They need to see a different future," Mr. Christopher told congress on Wednesday.

But, above all, Mr. Christopher has insisted that the agreement with Israel to establish self-rule for Palestinians in

Jenno and Gaza be completed and implemented in order to create "new realities" in the territories.

That would mean Mr. Arafat accepting Mr. Clinton's invitation and sending negotiators to work with Israel — and deferring some PLO demands to future talks.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres Friday declined to comment on reports in the Israeli media that the U.S. had asked Israel to take automatic weapons from extremist settlers. He was speaking to reporters after meetings with two European Union envoys and Peter Tarnoff, U.S. Undersecretary of state for political affairs.

Israel has said it would detain five settlers without trial and disarm fewer than 100.

Israel has said it would consider an international observer force — but not a military force — to supervise its withdrawal from the occupied lands and the start of self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

On Friday, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said he expected a decision "in due time, under authority of the United Nations" for an observer force.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said a day earlier that London is willing to contribute civilian observers, but not armed units.

Jibril Rajoub, a top Arafat aide, took an even harder line on Jewish settlements in an interview published in the Hebrew daily Yedioth Ahro-noth Friday.

Mr. Rajoub, who was expelled from Hebron in 1988 for anti-Israeli activities, said that if Israel did not dismantle all settlements in the occupied territories, "we'll distribute weapons to the Palestinians and return to the armed struggle."

## All four defendants found guilty in blast

(Continued from page 1)

argument and said Mr. Salameh still wanted his representation.

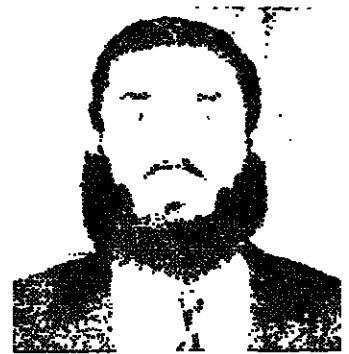
The bombing killed six and injured more than 1,000 in the 110-storey twin towers, the world's second-tallest buildings. Among the dead was a pregnant clerical worker.

The nighttime blast blew a five-storey-deep crater in a garage beneath the trade centre.

The \$50-kilogrammes of explosives inside a yellow Ryder rental van wrecked the skyscrapers' power and emergency systems.

Tens of thousands of people fled down smoky, dark stairwells in a six-hour evacuation. Seventeen kindergartners spent five hours trapped in an elevator. A pregnant woman was plucked off a rooftop by a helicopter.

Two days later, deep in the rubble, Federal Bureau of investigation (FBI) agents found van parts with vehicle identification numbers. That led them to Mr. Salameh, who was arrested March 4 as tried to



Mohammad Salameh



Nidal Ayyad

recover a \$400 deposit on the rental van.

In all, seven men were charged with conspiracy in the bombing. Bilal Al Kaisy, 28, awaits trial, and Mr. Youssef 26, and another suspect, Abdul Yasin, 33, are fugitives.

In a related case, 15 others are charged with plotting to blow up the United Nations, the federal building housing the FBI and two tunnels and a bridge connecting Manhattan and New Jersey. The trade centre bombing allegedly was part of that conspiracy; the

trial is scheduled for this fall.

One defendant in that case is Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, a blind cleric who allegedly inspired the group with fiery rhetoric he delivered in a storefront mosque in Jersey City. Sheikh Abdul Rahman was acquitted in Egypt of charges that he provoked the assassination of President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

Another defendant is Al Sayyid Nossair, who has been jailed for three years on charges related to the killing of radical Rabbi Meir Kahane.

Prosecutors said all four defendants in the trade centre trial had links to Mr. Nossair.

The trial proceeded slowly at first; even the judge said it was boring.

But there were accounts from survivors of the bombing, and there were some surprises: a Secret Service agent claimed he had seen a yellow van an instant before the explosion.

And prosecution witness Willie Moosh, asked to pick out the men he saw at his gas station with a yellow van the morning of the blast, pointed to two jurors instead. He later said he had made a mistake and pointed to defendants Abu Halima and Mr. Salameh — placing them with the van hours after Mr. Salameh had reported it stolen.

The blast caused an estimated \$550 million in damage and closed the towers for weeks. It also spread fear of recurrences in the United States, fuelling a boom in private and public security. A year later, however, many of those measures had eased as the bomb remained an isolated episode.

## Serbs still raping, murdering

(Continued from page 1)

national historic and artistic significance, has been destroyed by explosives.

Muslim-led government troops and Serbs are into their fourth week of a ceasefire around Sarajevo. Muslims and Croats are marking their second week of a country-wide ceasefire.

These promising developments have prompted some observers to predict peace this year for Bosnia.

But little has been done to address Serb determination to

use force to change Bosnia's internationally recognised borders and create a pure Serb state.

The UNHCR has five international staff members on duty in Banja Luka, assisted by about 10 local staff. They are too few to protect Muslims in Banja Luka or even witness most of their tribulations.

"It's very difficult, we cannot stop it, we cannot even monitor it properly," acknowledged Mr. Janowski.

In Rome, a tribunal to try war crime cases from the con-

flict in the former Yugoslavia is being stifled because the United Nations has not yet voted its budget, the mayor of Sarajevo said Friday.

"It should have started some time ago," said Mohammad Kreselj, the mayor of the besieged Bosnian city.

"If the same effort had been made to find money for the tribunal as had been made to buy weapons, we would already have the richest war crimes court ever," he told a news conference in Rome where he held talks with Italian

government officials.

Mr. Kreselj, who said Sarajevo city authorities had already handed over documentation to the tribunal regarding alleged atrocities committed in Bosnia.

"We feel hurt. We gave the evidence, but do not know if anyone has been able to work on it," he said.

The 11-member tribunal, headed by Italian Judge Antonio Cassese, is the first international war crimes panel set up since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials after World War II.







## AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PROV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING CLOSING PRICE
ABU DHABI	285,432	197,000	197,000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	151,533	7,900	7,900
CATCO AMMAN BANK	79,218	59,000	57,000
BAIR OF JORDAN	14,956	4,750	4,750
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1,745,145	1,100	1,100
THE JORDANIAN BANK	119,195	3,500	3,500
JORDAN FINANCIAL BANK	17,752	6,350	6,350
JORDAN SELF BANK	376,869	2,200	2,200
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	522,176	7,100	7,100
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK/NEW	23,886	4,400	4,400
UNION BANK FOR SAUING & INVESTMENT	555,538	1,200	1,200
BUSINESS BANK	77,098	5,110	5,100
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	76,734	4,250	4,250
WIT KALAL SAVING INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	85,463	4,450	4,450
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	44,481	4,600	4,700
AMMAN BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	1,347,046	2,000	2,000
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	7,334	4,800	4,800
JORDAN INSURANCE	71,542	2,300	2,400
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	3,850	3,850	3,850
JORDAN PUNCH INSURANCE	4,240	2,600	2,600
JORDAN PUNCH INSURANCE	21,000	3,750	3,750
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE	39,046	3,700	3,700
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	54,156	1,700	1,700
ALYAS AL-ARABIAN INSURANCE	6,890	2,970	2,950
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	135,445	2,370	2,350
JOINT DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	1,224	1,350	1,340
VEHICLES OWNERS ASSOCIATION	4,350	7,500	7,250
AMMAN INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	39,393	8,200	8,100
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	18,072	2,400	2,400
JORDAN TOURISM & HOTELS	26,626	8,700	8,700
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	106,065	1,300	1,300
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	34,448	1,700	1,700
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	1,225	1,500	1,500
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	14,380	1,350	1,350
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / JORDAN	17,662	12,700	12,700
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING / JO-HOUSE	44,659	14,710	14,700
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONGRESS HOTELS	81,616	2,250	2,250
AMMAN HOTEL FOR INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT	394,427	3,750	3,750
ATTACHED CONDO. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	20,775	2,700	2,700
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	422,325	3,150	3,150
JORDAN PROGRESS RIVER	6,300	2,000	2,000
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	44,297	14,400	14,300
JORDAN TAPING	588	7,820	7,820
MOLDS INVESTMENT	745	2,150	2,150
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	53,704	7,100	7,100
THE JORDAN WOODS REELS	436,193	12,500	12,500
AMMAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	181,242	7,850	7,850
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	37,816	4,450	4,400
JORDAN DAIRY	3,759	3,150	3,100
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	156,577	4,550	4,540
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	135	4,400	4,300
THE PUBLIC BUILDING	5,720	2,900	2,900
AMMAN CRITICAL VENTURES INDUSTRIES	5,720	18,750	18,750
SPINNING & WEAVING	12,988	2,770	2,750
RAPID INDUSTRIES	127,452	2,140	2,090
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	77,328	8,360	8,360
AMMAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	2,276,110	18,200	17,750
AMMAN INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	107,433	2,270	2,300
AMMAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	143,094	10,150	10,300
AMMAN PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	8,901	5,500	5,500
AMMAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	61,478	0,460	0,460
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	58,975	5,300	5,300
INTERMEDIATE PERO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	15,200	3,200	3,200
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	530	5,300	5,300
JORDAN WOODWORK INDUSTRIES	90,825	2,150	2,150
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	12,148	8,900	8,900
ALAMON INDUSTRIES	4,400	4,400	4,400
JORDAN TEXTILES & WASH/LEND	17,161	1,270	1,270
JORDAN PAPER CONVERTING INDUSTRIES	17,228	0,400	0,380
JORDAN WOOD INDUSTRIES / JORDAN	1,528	5,900	6,150
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	7,300	7,200	7,200
JORDAN SILICO-CHEMICALS	3,828	3,300	3,300
AMMAN CENTER FOR PLUMBER & CHEMICALS	25,404	3,310	3,300
JORDAN FINANCIAL CO. FOR AGRI. & FOOD PROD.	13,700	1,200	1,200
SAVING INVESTMENT	4,237	2,450	2,400
UNIVERSAL WOODS INDUSTRIES	723,202	5,810	5,810
GRAND TOTAL	11,980,849		

WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PROV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING CLOSING PRICE
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	446,569	1,330	1,370
JORDAN TRASH FACILITIES	140,728	0,930	0,900
JORDAN ALUMINUM CORP.	28,023	1,400	1,400
AMMAN EAST FOR SERV. & TRADE CO. S&T	777	0,870	0,870
JORDANIAN EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION HOLDINGS	52,391	1,690	1,790
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL HOLDINGS CO.	129,871	2,750	2,800
NATIONAL PLASTIC & PLASTIC IND. CO. JSC	362,535	3,650	3,650
JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	37,726	2,500	2,500
NATIONAL ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	57,779	1,310	1,310
SC-AN ARABY WOOD MANUFACTURING CO.	26,047	2,210	2,200
GRAND TOTAL	1,349,454		

WEEKLY REPORT

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## Algeria to sign stand-by credit agreement with IMF this month

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algeria will sign a stand-by credit agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) towards the end of March, financial sources have said.

The accord will enable Algeria to obtain two credits: One of \$500 million to finance preparations for a structural adjustment programme envisaged by the IMF and the other of \$300 million to compensate for oil revenues lost because of a fall in oil prices internationally.

At the end of a trial year, a new, enlarged credit facility should be negotiated for a three-year period the IMF deems necessary for implementation of the adjustment plan.

Officials in Algeria, which has been wracked by a guerrilla war by Islamic fundamentalists for more than two years, had wanted both agreements to be made at the same time, but the IMF appeared to have rejected this option, the sources said.

Algeria, which has been hesitating over the rescheduling of its \$26 billion foreign debt, expects the stand-by accord to open the way to loans notably from the European Union, which had been made conditional on a pact with the IMF.

These would include the second, 150-million European Currency Unit (ECU; \$169 million) tranche of a 400-million-ECU credit granted more than a year ago.

First estimates suggest Algeria's foreign earnings in 1994 are likely to be around \$9 billion, at best enough to cover debt service but leaving minimum financing requirements of \$7 billion for food and industrial imports.

The forecasts were based on an oil price of \$18 a barrel, but the current decline in prices, down to around \$14-\$15, will mean a loss of \$500 million for

Algeria for every dollar the barrel sells under that sum, financial sources said.

This loss of earnings will affect the budget deficit, which was set at 125 billion dinars (\$6 billion) at the beginning of the year but is already expected to be larger.

The main factors behind the deficit are subsidies to loss-making state-owned companies and for three essential products, milk, semolina and flour. The IMF has called for an end to these subsidies.

Negotiations on possible debt rescheduling are currently under way, but the amount in question has not been closed.

Despite reassuring statements from IMF Director-General Michael Camdessus on a "good agreement" between Algeria and its institution, an anti-IMF front has emerged in recent days, led by the UGTA labour federation.

The trade union body rejects any devaluation of the dinar and the staff cuts in public companies demanded by the IMF, and has called for an unemployment allowance for laid-off workers.

UGTA Secretary-General Abdul Hak Benhamouda said the federation will not support the IMF's shock therapy for Algeria's ailing economy.

According to unconfirmed reports, the IMF has called for a 50 per cent devaluation of the dinar, which would slash the purchasing power of Algerians.

The international body is also said to have called for interest rates to be aligned with inflation, running at 32 per cent a year which would lead to cuts in credit for companies and a broad opening of the market to foreign produce.

The authorities have been making cautious progress in negotiations with the IMF for fear of a social explosion, against the political background of the murderous confrontation between Islamists and the security forces.

## Iranian committee debates GATT membership

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has set up a special committee to discuss the pros and cons of joining the GATT international trade pact, Iranian television has said.

The committee, composed of representatives of a dozen ministries and other bodies, could take months or years to reach a conclusion to report to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the television said.

Mohammad Baqer Nowbakti, a member of parliament interviewed on television, said joining GATT was not in the interest of Iran which earns most of its hard cash from crude oil exports.

Mr. Nowbakti, a member of the parliament's plan and budget committee, said Iran would lose out by joining GATT and lowering tariffs because its industries could not compete with imports.

## Trading at AFM dips by 20% but surge expected this week

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Weekly trading at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) slipped by 20 per cent last week, but no significant shifts were seen in the price of stocks despite fears sparked by the Feb. 25 massacre of Palestinians in a Hebron mosque.

Figures released by the AFM showed that 4.3 million shares worth JD 13.3 million changed hands during the week ending Thursday compared with JD 16.6 million during the previous week.

Industrial stock led the list, accounting for JD 5.8 million (43.6 per cent), closely followed by the banking sector with 5.7 million (42.8 per cent) and the services sector with JD 1.6 million (12.2 per cent) and insurance companies with JD 200,000 (1.4 per cent).

Shares of 87 companies out of the 114 listed at the market were involved in trading, the report said, adding that 34 of them showed gains while 35 showed a decline and 18 remained stable.

However, the gains or drops were of no significant nature to show any distinct trend in the market, brokers said.

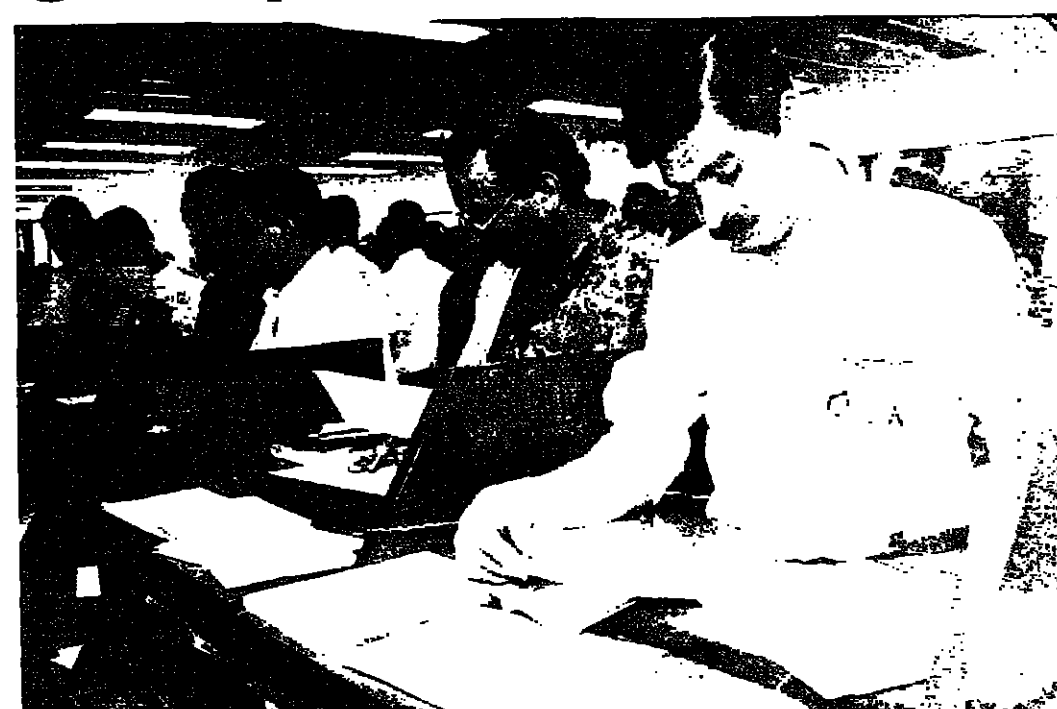
"Trading was largely lacklustre, with investors with large commitments losing a little here, gaining a little there, but there was no sign in the market of panic selling or buying as a result of the late February events," said a broker.

The broker, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with standing AFM guidelines, was referring to the massacre at the Ibrahim Mosque in the occupied West Bank town of Hebron last Friday.

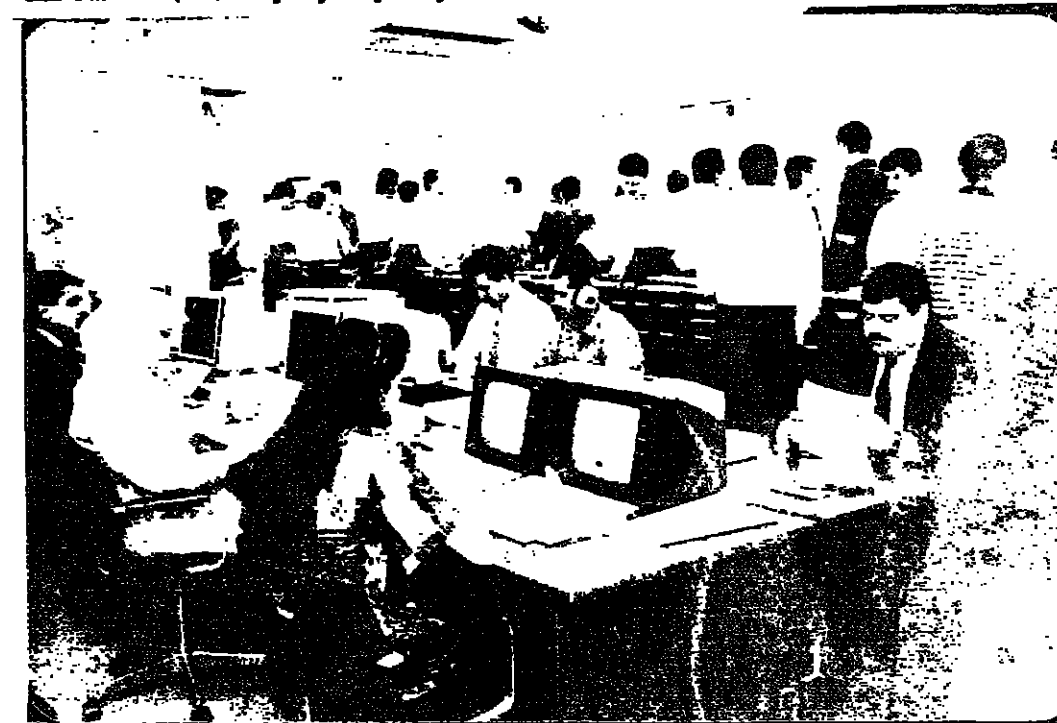
"People do get alarmed by turbulent events in the region, particularly Jordan and the occupied territories, but they are reluctant to dump their holdings in a hurry and suffer losses," said the broker.

"A majority of them would like to hang on their holdings awaiting further developments," he said. The broker conceded that prospects for Middle East peace, and, by extension, profit-making ventures in the occupied territories, were set back by the massacre and the subsequent suspension of peace talks.

"But, by and large, people seem convinced that the setback is temporary and it is



Photos show registration of deals after being concluded on the floor of the Amman Financial Market (Photo by Aynsley Floyd)



only a matter of time before the peace negotiations would resume," he said. "As such, stock holders are not willing to be triggered into panic selling or buying."

According to the broker, most individual speculators with limited capital opted to stay away from trading during the week as was the case the previous two weeks which saw a decline in weekly turnover which had hit more than JD 21 million in January.

The daily average trading at the AFM was around JD 4.2 million in late January,

but it dropped to JD 2.7 million in less than a month. But the drop was mostly due to abstention by investors during the holy month of Ramadan when they consider indulgence in market speculation as sacrilege, brokers say.

They expect a surge in trading this week, particularly during the last few days of Ramadan ahead of an almost week-long holiday.

They said speculators would converge on the market during the last days of Ramadan for fresh acquisitions which could be held

over Eid Al Fitr for profit-taking.

Banking officials handling AFM portfolios noted that many companies were expected to release their 1993 figures during the month of March, with dividend distributions slated for April.

"Many investors already know of the performance of most companies and are retaining their stock for profit-taking in the latter half of March," said the broker.

"This has been an established trend in the market for years."

## Financial Markets

in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York 2/3/1994	Tokyo 2/3/1994
Sterling Pound	1.4964	1.4936
Deutsche Mark	1.7050	1.7075
Swiss Franc	1.4310	1.4317
French Franc	5.8020	5.8135**
Japanese Yen	104.20	103.92
European Currency Unit	1.1320	1.1316**

USD Per SDR

European Spending of 4.00 a.m. GMT

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.3125	3.4375	3.5625	4.0000
Sterling Pound	4.9375	4.9375	5.0000	5.0625
Deutsche Mark	5.8750	5.8750	5.5000	5.3750
Swiss Franc	4.0000	5.9375	5.8125	5.6875
French Franc	6.1875	6.1250	5.9375	5.8125
Japanese Yen	2.1250	2.0625	2.0625	2.1250
European Currency Unit	6.3200	6.1900	6.0800	5.9400

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1.2 million U.S. dollars or equivalent.

Precious Metals

Date: 3/3/1994

Metal

USD/oz

JD/Gm

Metal

USD/oz

JD/Gm

Gold

377.55

7.40

Silver

5.28

0.120

SI Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 3/3/1994

Currency

Bid

Offer

U.S. Dollar

0.6980

0.7000

Sterling Pound

1.0419

1.0471

Deutsche Mark

0.4086

0.4106

Swiss Franc

0.4871

0.4985

French Franc

0.1200

0.1206

Japanese Yen

0.6714

0.6748

Dutch Guilder

0.5640

0.5658

Swedish Krona

0.0414

0.0416

Italian Lira



## Shooting mars Sarajevo truce; U.N. wants more peacekeepers

PARIS (AP) — French soldiers fired a warning shot from a machine gun to deter a sniper from shooting a truce violation in the Sarajevo front, and U.N. officials appealed for more soldiers.

French Major Michel, chief of the U.N. mission in Sarajevo, said the troops were needed to secure truces between Serbs and the Muslims and between Croats and Muslims in central and southwestern Bosnia.

He said both ceasefires generally were holding but expressed concern about increasing violations.

"We very much need not only the full compliance by the parties of the agreements they have already accepted or reached, but also we need additional resources, additional personnel," he said in Zagreb, Croatia.

Mr. Akashi said he needed 4,000 more soldiers for Sarajevo and 6,050 for the rest of Bosnia. That would nearly double the number of

peacekeepers in Bosnia.

With the United States declining to commit troops without an overall peace accord, and Britain, France and Canada reluctant to send more troops, it was unclear where Mr. Akashi might get additional peacekeepers.

The U.N. mission's military chief, Gen. Jean Cot of France, said reinforcements were needed immediately to avoid "losing what has been done."

Gen. Cot had harsh words

for the U.S. decision not to commit ground troops unless the Bosnian factions work out a peace settlement. That policy is "not very courageous," he said.

The United States does have a large contingent of warplanes in the NATO force that patrols Bosnia's skies. Two U.S. F-16 fighter jets shot down four Serb warplanes that U.N. officials said bombed a Bosnian government arms factory Monday about 45 miles northwest of Sarajevo.

A NATO threat to use warplanes to bomb Serb artillery around Sarajevo ended the shelling of the besieged capital by forcing the Serbs to remove their tanks, howitzers and mortars.

In Washington, the commander of U.S. forces in Europe said the Serbs had almost completely complied with the ultimatum, removing or surrendering nearly all of the 600 heavy weapons surrounding Sarajevo.

"I'd say we're close" to full compliance, Gen. George Joulwan told the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee Thursday.

The ultimatum on Sarajevo bolstered a U.N.-mediated truce that has generally held for three weeks, the longest in the city in nearly two years of siege.

A U.N. spokesman, Maj. Jose Labandeira, said Serb troops opened fire with small arms on government troops at



British UNPROFOR Lt. "Spide" Martin from the No. 2 Company of the Coldstream Guards (left) directs a Serb T-55 tank onto the road on its way to a U.N. heavy weapons storage site west of Sarajevo (AFP photo)

the Jewish cemetery in downtown Sarajevo early Thursday. French peacekeepers in the area then fired a warning volley of machine-gun fire.

That followed an incident Wednesday in which Serbs shot four rocket-propelled grenades at government troops near the cemetery, prompting a gun battle. U.N. officials quoted Serbs as saying they fired the grenades because government soldiers were violating the truce by reinforcing trenches.

Maj. Labandeira said three more grenades were fired Thursday but peacekeepers had not determined who was responsible.

"Both sides are very, very

close in that area, and it has always been very tense," said Lt. Col. Bill Aikman, another U.N. spokesman. "We are monitoring it, and we expect that it will not continue."

U.N. officials said front lines between Muslim and Bosnian Croat troops were generally stable. Col. Aikman said the southwestern city of Mostar was quiet except for five shells that exploded in the Muslim-held eastern side late Wednesday.

Muslims and Croats, once allies against the Serbs in Bosnia, signed an agreement Tuesday in Washington to cease hostilities and form a federation.

U.N. officials said the two

sides agreed Thursday on three-man patrols along confrontation lines to bolster their truce. Each patrol would have one U.N. monitor, accompanied by a Croat and a Muslim, both unarmed.

The Croats also agreed to allow the Bosnian government to maintain weapons in six areas where Croats, Muslims and Serbs are in close proximity, but only if the Muslims use their weapons solely against the Serbs.

More than 200,000 people have been killed or are missing in Bosnia since Serbs armed by the Yugoslav Federal army rebelled against Muslims and Croats who seceded from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

## White House misspelled European ministers' names

PARIS (R) — The White House, in a diplomatic gaffe, misspelled the names of several European ministers it invited to a high-level jobs conference in Detroit this month, the International Herald Tribune newspaper reported. Documents from U.S. President Bill Clinton's office included errors in the names of British Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke (spelled "Clark"), German Labour Minister Norbert Blum (spelled "Blohm"), Italian Treasury Minister Piero Barone (called "Pietro") and European Economics Commissioner Henning Christophersen (spelled "Christopherson"). Compounding the offense, the White House omitted completely the first names of the French Economics and Labour Ministers, Edmond Alphandery and Michel Girard. The newspaper said the Clinton administration had also asked its guests by telling them they will have to pay for their own rooms at a Detroit hotel during the March 14-15 meeting. "I don't want to be impolite," one Italian government official was quoted as saying, "but this Clinton presidency on dear it is a real hitto misto (mixed bag). They are mixing up our names and our titles."

## Hong Kong police muffle naked anti-fur protest

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong police were too quick for a pair of animal rights activists, wrapping them in blankets as they stripped off in public in an anti-fur protest. Americans Dan Mathews and Julia Sloan had planned to march nearly naked through the streets of Kowloon, their modesty precariously protected cloth banners declaring: "We'd rather go naked than wear fur." Their protest was timed to coincide with a major fur and fashion trade fair in Hong Kong this week. But plainclothes police pounced the moment the two members of the radical People For the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) began to disrobe on a seafarer promenade. They were wrapped uncereemoniously in police blankets, bundled into a van and taken to a nearby police station. Police released the two later with a warning. Mr. Mathews, from Washington DC, said before his arrest the protest was intended to start people talking about animal rights. Fur sales have fallen drastically in North America and Western Europe as a result of animal rights awareness campaigns. "We are here to keep fur out of Asia," Mr. Mathews said.

## Beauticians exposed to chemicals risk miscarriages

CHAPEL HILL, North Carolina (AP) — The risk of miscarriage can double for beauticians who often use chemicals to clean their instruments, according to a new study. The study found a correlation between the number of hours a day worked in cosmetology, the number of services involving chemicals done each week, the use of formaldehyde-based disinfectants and the amount of work done in saloons giving manicures. "We did see an almost two-fold increase in spontaneous abortions among women who used formaldehyde to disinfect their cosmetology utensils during pregnancy," said doctor Esther John, an associate professor of epidemiology at Stanford University School of Medicine in Palo Alto, California.

## Spielberg discusses film with Mitterrand

PARIS (AFP) — U.S. film director Steven Spielberg met with French President Francois Mitterrand and discussed his new film Schindler's List, which recounts how a Nazi officer saved Jews from the World War II death camps. "We discussed the importance of education in the schools about the Holocaust," Spielberg said after the meeting at the presidential palace. "He has not seen my film yet. After I talked to him for a while, he sensed what the film was about and certainly felt very supportive about it." Spielberg, who made the blockbuster Jurassic Park, also said he understood why the French campaigned for a "cultural exception" in the audiovisual sector during last year's GATT negotiations.

## Yeltsin: Russia cannot afford 'reforms at any cost'

PARIS (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin said that while economic reforms are necessary, they must not come at the expense of social stability.

Yeltsin said in a speech to the Russian parliament that the government must not allow the reforms to become a "social disaster."

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social protection for those who cannot make due without state support.

"Economic reforms at any cost" is a false slogan," Mr. Yeltsin said. "People can reject an excessively burdensome reform."

However, he added that a further delay "in introducing the long-overdue changes does even worse damage."

Friday's session was mainly devoted to discussion of the proposed 1994 budget and the sorry state of the Russian economy.

The draft budget calls for spending cuts and reducing monthly inflation to no more than 12 per cent. Last year, inflation ran at an average of 20 per cent a month.

Mr. Yeltsin said he wanted to bring inflation down to 5 per cent a month by the end of the year, but conceded it will be a slow, tough fight.

"In the present circumstances of Russia, any war on inflation will be a trench war," he said. "I think that military terms are quite appropriate in this context. You cannot vanquish inflation in a single fierce

charge. To win the battle, a full-scale coordination of the actions of the president, the parliament and the government will be needed."

Mr. Yeltsin also spoke of the need to attract foreign investment, reform Russia's tax system, overhaul the operation of banks and establish a federal reserve system for Russia.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said his government would stick to the economic programme it approved last August.

"We intend to adhere to it in the future," he said in a 40-minute speech. "We are going to implement it, however hard it may be."

Former Economics Minister Yegor Gaidar, who quit the government earlier this year after complaining it was abandoning reforms, said Friday he was sceptical the budget proposals would be carried out.

"So far, if we talk not about wishes, but about actual decisions, these targets are not realistic," Mr. Gaidar said.

He noted that the cabinet last month approved a 14-trillion-ruble agricultural aid package, and "these two prog-

rammes contradict each other not in details or commas, but in trillions of rubles."

"Much of what the prime minister said is absolutely right," he added. "But in real life and in economics, what is done is more important than what is said."

One government critic immediately dismissed the document.

"nothing will help," a ultra-nationalist lawmaker Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said. "Only a change in the political leadership will help."

Mr. Yeltsin denounced parliament for giving amnesty to hardliners who battled him last October and to leaders of the 1991 Soviet coup.

The amnesty was a "violation of the constitution, law and moral standards," he said.

But Mr. Yeltsin ruled out another clash with Russia's lawmakers for "the good of its citizens, its security and civil peace."

"Democracy in Russia today means primarily stability, order and cooperation," he said.



Indigenous supporters of the Zapatista rebels hold up a picture of Emiliano Zapata during a demonstration in support of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (AFP photo)

## Mexican rebels weigh peace offers, but risk to government could be high

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AP) — The government faces almost as much political risk from its tentative peace accord with Indian rebels as it would if the talks had failed.

Government pledges in the accord reached Wednesday with the rebel Zapatista National Liberation Army cover most insurgents' demands for aiding impoverished Indians in southern Chiapas state.

While Indian communities must approve the accord before a treaty can be formally signed, the agreement is a major achievement for a government eager to settle the uprising before August presidential elections.

Still, the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, will be under scrutiny to change the way it does business. Some say the PRI will put itself at risk of losing power for the first time since it took over in 1929.

One promise in the accord is to make this year's presidential election clean. The PRI has won every national election since its founding, frequently amid acrimonious opposition charges of fraud, intimidation and other misdeeds.

Observers call the Aug. 21 election the real hostage in

government dealings with the rebels. The uprising could still trouble the voting to replace President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who cannot run again. Other poor groups throughout Mexico could also resort to violence.

Porfirio Munoz Ledo, a federal senator and member of the opposition, told Guatemala journalists Wednesday that the Zapatista uprising "helped underscore the Mexican reality at an international level."

The government agreed with nine political parties Monday to strengthen the role of independent observers and allow greater outside scrutiny of voter rolls held by the federal election institute.

The institute is a semi-autonomous body of the Interior Ministry, which like other branches of government, is dominated by the PRI.

The rebels have warned there will be no real peace if central demands for democratic reforms are not met, and the guerrilla leader who used the nom de guerre Subcomandante Marcos has repeatedly insisted that Mr. Salinas resign.

The tentative agreement reached after 10 days of talks promises sweeping social and political change in Chiapas, the state where the uprising began.

Nearly one-third of the 3.8 million people in Chiapas are Indian.

Reforms on Chiapas state election laws will be so profound that interim Gov. Javier Lopez Moreno said Wednesday that state elections would be postponed from August until next year.

Indian peasants, meanwhile, must approve the preliminary accord reached before any formal agreement is reached, rebels said.

Rebel negotiators, including Subcomandante Marcos, left San Cristobal de Las Casas at sunrise Thursday aboard six four-wheel-drive vehicles accompanied by Red Cross workers to return to tell of the accord.

Also in the convoy was government envoy Manuel Camacho Solis and the talk's mediator, Roman Catholic Bishop Samuel Ruiz. The negotiations were held in this town's 16th-century cathedral.

No answer was expected for weeks from the Indians, many of whom live in remote jungle regions.

The Zapatistas seized this city and several other towns on Jan. 1. At least 145 people, mostly rebels and civilians, died before a Jan. 12 ceasefire, but the actual number may never be known.

## Japan parliament passes anti-corruption law

TOKYO (AP) — Landmark reforms aimed at reforming Japan's notoriously corrupt political system quietly became law Friday, ending a tortuous, year-long debate that helped bring down two prime ministers.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, who took office last August promising to either pass the reforms or resign, said the package represents "a major step toward the attainment of more responsible politics."

Because the package had already attained approval of the more powerful lower house, Friday's final vote in the upper house of parliament was a pro forma decision, concluded without any of the fiery rhetoric of earlier debates. The vote took only a few minutes.

"We must move steadfastly toward creating a society of quality and substance that will have the international community's trust," Mr. Hosokawa said in a nationally tele-

vised speech before parliament.

Mr. Hosokawa owes much of his popularity to his focus on ridding politics of the widespread bribery and influence-for-hire scandals that had deeply stained the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) during its 35 year rule.

Both of Mr. Hosokawa's Liberal Democratic predecessors — Toshiki Kaifu and Kiichi Miyazawa — also supported reform bills but failed

to get them through parliament.

A slew of battles with the Liberal Democrats, now Japan's largest opposition party, had pushed Mr. Hosokawa's seven-party ruling coalition to the brink of collapse. But the two sides finally worked out a watered-down compromise version of the bill.

Under the new laws, single-member districts will replace the current multi-member districts.





## Harding assaulted in park near home

PORTON, Ore. (AP) — An American figure skater, Tonya Harding, was in a city park near her apartment complex where she was staying with police said Friday.

Harding suffered scrapes, bruises and a sprained knee in the attack, which occurred about 11 p.m. Thursday night, it was possible to tell from a police report.

Police told investigators that Harding was walking through the park when she was assaulted by a man who was wearing a dark jacket and a hooded sweatshirt.

Harding was taken to a hospital, where she was treated for her injuries. She was released after being treated for her injuries.

Harding's attorney, John Russell, said that his client was "very nervous" and that she was "scared" of the man who assaulted her.

Russell said that his client was "very nervous" and that she was "scared" of the man who assaulted her.

tainly suggests it was a legitimate attack," Hyde said.

As to whether the attack was planned rather than random, Hyde said: "You certainly have to look at that as a possibility. It's not a park that's used on a regular basis."

He said police would talk to Harding again "to backtrack what she was doing" Thursday night, as well as to people who might have seen something suspicious in the area.

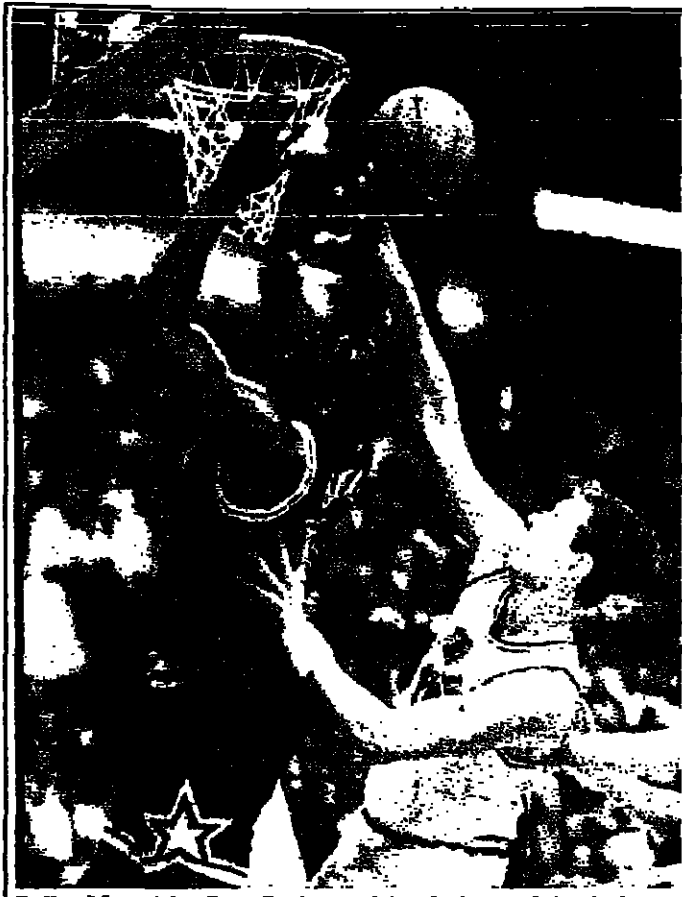
Harding is the subject of an investigation into whether she was involved with or knew of the plot to attack rival figure skater Nancy Kerrigan Jan. 6 in Detroit.

Meanwhile in Washington, the U.S. Justice Department was Thursday reviewing whether any federal crimes were committed by Harding in the attack on her competitor, Nancy Kerrigan.

"The review is still under way," said John Russell, spokesman for the Justice Department's Criminal Division. He said the review was undertaken at the request, about two weeks ago, of local prosecutors in Portland, Oregon, Harding's home.

Federal officials are studying whether Harding may have violated the Hobbs act, which makes it a felony to interfere with commerce by use of violence or the threat of it, Russell said.

The act carries a penalty of up to 20 years in prison. Criminal division attorneys are "very skeptical" that a Hobbs act prosecution can be brought, according to a federal official.



Dallas Mavericks Greg Drenting (right) fouls the Orlando Magic Shaquille O'Neal during second quarter action at Reunion Arena Thursday (AP photo)

## Michael Jordan plays like nervous rookie

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — Michael Jordan felt like a nervous rookie, and played like one.

Jordan went 0-for-3, barely missing an extra-based hit before striking out twice on off-speed pitches as his team fell 12-7 Thursday in an intrasquad game for the Chicago White Sox. On the field, he also dropped a wind-blown fly ball.

"Some critics may see it as a setback, but I saw it as an opportunity to go out and see what a baseball game is like," Jordan said.

"It was my first game and I felt nervous and out of my element," he said. "Hopefully, I'll get another chance and be a little more comfortable."

White Sox Manager Gene Lamont said Jordan would not start Friday in the exhibition opener against Texas. But Lamont said Jordan is likely to play some in right field.

"If he'd gone 3-for-3 or 0-for-5, I don't think it would've made any difference," Lamont said. "It was just a chance for him to go out there. He probably hit the hardest ball of the day."

In his first at-bat, facing the fastballs of prospect James Baldwin, Jordan hit a line drive into the gap that left fielder Warren Newson caught with a backhanded dive.

Jordan, batting sixth for a team led by coach Joe Niekirk, had a tougher time against the tricks of rookies Rod Bolton and Scott Christman.

Jordan was called out by college Umpire Cal Van Aken on a 1-2 sinker by Bolton and swung far ahead of a 2-2 changeup by Christman.

No pitcher threw close to Jordan, and he managed a total three foul balls in his three at-bats.

"No hits, but certainly I felt comfortable at the bat," Jordan said. "I saw every pitch. I saw some good ones."

Jordan was on the same team as Jack McDowell and did not face the young winner. MVP Frank Thomas, Robin Ventura and most of Chicago's Regulars did not play.

Earlier in the fifth inning, Jordan was fooled by the wind. With two outs, two runners on and the score 6-6, Joe Hall sliced a high fly into the 40 KPH gusts. Jordan, instructed to play deep, ran in and toward the line, but the ball glanced off his glove, a model specially made by Wilson with his name in it. One run scored on the play, and eight runs scored in an inning that included errors by all three outfielders.

"I didn't think I would be able to reach it," Jordan said. "When I did, I was not able to collect myself, and the ball hit the heel of my glove," he said.

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## Auriol chases Kankkunen in Portuguese Rally

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — A 1-2 Toyota finish looked likely in the Portuguese Rally Friday as Didier Auriol chased teammate Juha Kankkunen over the final six stages of the fourth and final day of the 2,215-kilometre race.

Auriol blazed around the six gravel tracks, winning two races any time for first in another to make up 12 seconds on Kankkunen and solidify Toyota's lock on the leader board.

Breaking a course record to win the 34th stage, Auriol moved within 29 seconds of the defending world champion's overall time of six hours, three minutes and 18 seconds.

But it was Kankkunen's consistency — never lower than fourth in a stage — that enabled the "flying Finn" to get close to the lead.

"I feel great and the car is in good shape," Kankkunen told reporters at the morning break in Argail, 220 kilometres northeast of Lisbon. "I still haven't won the rally, and during the afternoon I'm not going to defend. I'm going to drive."

Local favourite Carlos Sainz, of Spain, also drove well, winning one stage and tying for second with Kankkunen on another. But Sainz's effort was not enough to get past Italy's Massimo "Miki" Biasion.

Biasion, behind the wheel of a Ford Cosworth CS, won two stages and tied for first with Kankkunen on another, holding on to third place, 45 seconds off the lead.

The 1994 Portugal Rally has seen favoured drivers drop out early. Scotland's Colin McRae Thursday abandoned the race after his Subaru Impreza 555 stalled on the steep mid-country hills.

## Edberg advances, Chang, Martin eliminated from Champions Cup

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) — Third-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden advanced to the quarterfinals of the Champions Cup Thursday, but No. 6 Michael Chang and No. 7 Todd Martin were both upset victims.

Edberg needed only 68 minutes to eliminate Fabrice Santoro of France 6-2, 6-3. A day earlier, Santoro beat Andre Agassi, who was playing in only his second tournament in the last five months.

Chang lost to No. 12 Alexander Volkov of Russia 6-4, 1-6, 6-3. Martin, who reached the finals of the Australian Open in January, was beaten by No. 10 Petr Korda of the Czech Republic 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

In other third-round action, eighth-seeded Thomas Muster

of Austria beat Jonathan Stark 6-4, 6-4; Darren Cahill of Australia outlasted No. 11 Marc Rosset of Switzerland 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 (7-5); no. 16 Carlos Costa of Spain rallied to beat Patrick Rafter of Australia 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, and Aaron Krickstein came back for a 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Patrick McEnroe.

In the quarterfinals, Edberg will play Cahill; Volkov will meet Krickstein; Korda will face Costa, and Muster will meet the winner of the Sampras-Washington match.

When Korda and Martin took the stadium court to play the first match of the day, the temperature was 41 C. And it got hotter as the day went on, reaching a peak of 48 C. on the court.

"I don't think he (Chang) felt so well because he was so wet," Volkov said after scoring his upset, referring to the fact that Chang was soaked with sweat.

"I played so well in the first set," Volkov said. "I didn't make any mistakes. Michael did not play very well today. He playing defensive, he made too many mistakes. I felt confident, I hit short balls and won a lot of points."

Chang said the two-hour, nine-minute match was "a little strange."

"I was a little bit flat," Chang said. "I made a few unforced errors that really hurt me. I've had success against Alexander in the past. He was not only hitting winners. I was making errors, so it was tough to beat him."

## 'Soccer more popular in U.S. than polls show'

WASHINGTON (USIA) — A spokesman for the U.S. World Cup organizing committee rejects public opinion polls on soccer's purported unpopularity in the United States, arguing instead that American sports fans have already demonstrated their support for the game.

Teddy Roe, speaking last week on a WorldNet television dialogue programme with participants in Algiers, called soccer's popularity in the U.S. "hidden." In fact, Roe asserted, soccer is the fastest-growing youth sport in this country, with more than 15 million active participants.

Since the 1970s, he said, the game has been growing, starting in the public schools and in youth leagues. Speaking from personal experience, Roe said the youth league player of today will be the father of his own soccer player tomorrow.

U.S. domestic allotment for World Cup seats, about 65 per cent of the 3.5 million available seats in the nine U.S. cities

where the tournament will be played, sold out last June — a year before the World Cup begins — according to Roe.

Even after all the seats were sold, Roe said Americans are still clamouring for tickets. Even more remarkable, fans bought their tickets without knowing which countries would qualify teams for the World Cup or in which cities the teams would play.

Roe discounted polls reporting that only 20 per cent of Americans know the World Cup will be played in the United States, and that only 18 per cent know it will be played this year. He called those polls not "particularly accurate."

Once sponsors start promoting the World Cup on American television, he said, "there's no question in my mind that everybody in the United States will know the World Cup is here."

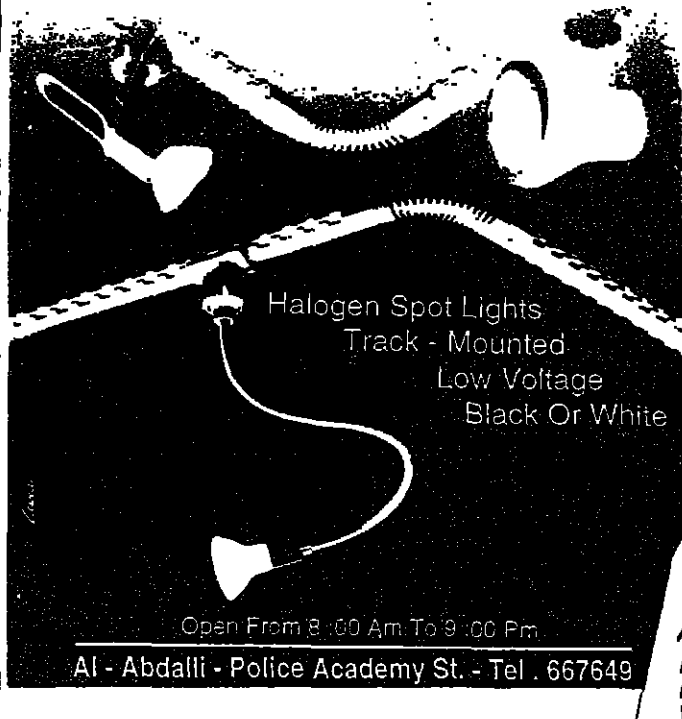
Once the TV promotion begins, he said, the continued growth of soccer in the United States depends on how well the U.S. team does in the World Cup and whether it "captures the imagination of a larger number of American sports fans."

He said soccer will grow, even though it competes for the American sports dollar against the popular TV sports of baseball, basketball, and (American) football.

Soccer's growth, says Roe, will be manifested in 1995 when a 12-team first division U.S. professional league begins play. He said the league, while not initially on the same level with pro leagues in Latin America and Europe, hopes to develop its own American stars, who will in turn help soccer develop in this country.

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**Date:** Tuesday, March 8, 1994, between the hours 9 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Warehouse near 7th Circle.

**Items to be sold:** Used residential and office furnishings and equipment.

**Type of sale:** Sealed-bid. Bid forms can be obtained on the day of sale.

**Conditions of sale:**

- 20 per cent cash deposit required on sale day.
- Sale items will be available for inspection on sale day.
- Bids must be submitted by 1:00 p.m., sale day.
- Bids must be submitted at the warehouse.
- Bids will be opened and bidders notified beginning Wednesday, March 9, 1994.
- Items must be removed within 24 hours after notification. After that period, a 50 JD per day storage fee will be assessed.
- All items are sold on a "what-is, as-is, non-returnable" basis.

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<b>THELMA AND LOUISE</b>		<b>ROUND TRIP TO HEAVEN</b>		<b>CONCORD '1' FILOFAX</b>		<b>Opening Soon</b>	<b>Al Ilm Nuron</b>	<b>Nabil Al Hisham Theatre presents</b>
Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		<b>A political comedy</b>	A popular political comedy	<b>Ahlan Arab Summit Conference (play)</b>
				<b>CONCORD '2' PASSENGER</b>		<b>Forbidden X Forbidden</b>	Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali in addition to other comedians	
				Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30			<b>Every night at 8:15</b>	daily at 9:15 p.m.
							<b>Tickets are sold all day</b>	Theatre is closed Sundays, Monday and Tuesdays
							<b>Coming soon: The next play</b>	



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Iraq: U.S. will pay for hostile stand

BAGHDAD (R) — Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said on Friday the United States will pay for its insistence to keep U.N. sanctions against Iraq. In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency (INA), Mr. Aziz warned President Bill Clinton that his advisers were pushing "U.S. policy in the region into a dead end." He said: "The notorious advisers of the American president... who prevent the Security Council from honouring its commitments towards Iraq will reap the results of their shallow and rancorous attitudes." President Clinton said on Thursday the United States would continue to apply economic sanctions against Iraq because of Baghdad's defiance of United Nations resolutions passed after the 1991 Gulf war. "Because of Iraq's failure to comply fully with United Nations Security Council resolutions, the United States will continue to apply economic sanctions to deter Iraq from threatening peace and stability in the region," Mr. Clinton said in a report to Congress. Iraq is under stringent U.N. trade sanctions imposed in response to its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "The trend to keep sanctions on Iraq was not only unfair and hostile but wrong and will not realise for the planners of U.S. policy their declared aims," Mr. Aziz said. Mr. Aziz said Iraq had honoured all its ceasefire commitments and the Security Council was now obliged to lift the oil embargo "without delay and (addition) of new conditions."

## U.S.: No plan to deport Demjanjuk

CINCINNATI (AP) — The U.S. government said it has no plans for an immediate effort to deport accused Nazi guard John Demjanjuk, even though a court order blocking deportation has expired. The department is still fighting a case against Mr. Demjanjuk in a Cleveland federal court and may take another aspect of the dispute to the U.S. Supreme Court. But it will not try to have Mr. Demjanjuk deported while the cases are pending, spokesman Carl Stern said Thursday from Washington. Mr. Demjanjuk was convicted in 1988 and sentenced to death in Israel on charges he was a Nazi guard in Poland during World War II. The Israeli supreme court overturned that conviction in July allowing Mr. Demjanjuk, 73, a retired auto worker from suburban Cleveland, to return to the United States in September. The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Nov. 17 that the U.S. Justice Department defrauded the federal courts by not disclosing evidence Mr. Demjanjuk could have used to fight his 1986 extradition to Israel. The court last week refused to rehear the ruling. The Justice Department has 90 days to appeal to the supreme court but it has not made that decision. Mr. Stern said.

## Colombian rebels free American

BOGOTA (AP) — An American freed by leftist rebels stepped off an airplane after a flight from the jungle region where he had been held for a year, and ran into the arms of his brother, Lewis Manning, freed Wednesday by National Liberation Army rebels in Choco state, 300 kilometres west of Bogota, hugged his brother, Bob Manning, colleagues and other friends at Bogota's airport on Thursday. The rebel group, known by its initials in Spanish as the ELN, threatened to abduct more Americans as "prisoners of war," for ransom. Its message was conveyed in faxes to local news media this week. The National Liberation Army and a loosely allied group have recently stepped up attacks on American interests, bombing three Mormon churches, a Coca-Cola bottling plant and U.S. bank branches.

## Rock star reported in coma after overdose

ROME (AP) — Kurt Cobain, lead singer of the rock group Nirvana, was hospitalised in a coma Friday after taking an overdose of tranquilisers with champagne, the Italian news agency ANSA said. The hospital refused to confirm that Mr. Cobain was in a coma, and said only that he had been transferred to a private clinic after initial emergency room treatment. ANSA said the 28-year Cobain was stricken after taking a huge dose of roipnol, a tranquiliser, with champagne. Police said he was taken to the public Policlinic Hospital around 7 a.m. and transferred to an unidentified private clinic five hours later. The leader of the Seattle Grunge rock group was reportedly on vacation in Rome with his wife, singer Courtney Love, between European engagements.

## Ransom named U.S. envoy to Bahrain

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton has nominated David M. Ransom, a veteran foreign service officer, to be U.S. ambassador to Bahrain. In a State Department career which began in 1965, Mr. Ransom has served as desk officer for Southern Europe and for the Arabian Peninsula. Among numerous other posts, he was deputy chief of mission at the U.S. embassy in the United Arab Emirates. He also served in the U.S. embassy in Damascus.

## Prosecution helped acquit Davidians

WACO (AP) — Testimony from the Branch Davidian who was the government's key witness helped jurors decide to acquit 11 cult members of murder, the jury forewoman said. The 11 cult members of the Branch Davidian movement were acquitted of murder charges in the trial of David Koresh, the cult's leader, who was shot dead by federal agents during a Feb. 28, 1993, shootout, said Sarah L. n. Mrs. Schroeder also had been charged with murder but only to testify in exchange for admitting to the lesser crime of resisting federal officers. Victorine Hollingsworth (Janitor), Thomas, two others inside the compound during the shootout, also testified for the prosecution. Ms. Hollingsworth and Ms. Thomas were never charged. "The ones that the most impact were probably those who had been in the pound," Ms. Bain was quoted in Thursday's Tribune-Herald. "Their testimony also was kind of damaging on some of the charges, some of the firearms charges and actual parties during the raid itself, what various individuals had been doing during the raid itself," said Ms. Bain, a high school Spanish teacher. The jury on Saturday acquitted all 11 defendants, including three Britons, a Canadian, a Jamaican and an Italian, of murder and conspiracy to commit murder. "Invited five Davidians of the lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter, which carries a maximum 10 year prison term, two others were convicted of weapons charges."

## Man acc'd in porno movie fire

LONDON (A) — A man charged with murdering nine patrons of a pornographic movie club by setting fire to the building was remanded in custody by a court Thursday to await trial. David Laurs, 34, who is deaf and works as a garment industry worker, is accused of starting Saturday's fire at the Dream City movie club by pouring gasoline through a mail slot and setting it alight. Flames swept through the seedy, four-storey Victorian building near London's financial district, trapping about 30 m. patrons. Police said they had been watching pornography videos. Press reports said homosexuals and heterosexuals frequented the club. No motive for the alleged attack was given at Thursday's brief hearing at Highbury corner magistrates court in North London, and a trial date was announced. "was the largest death toll from a fire in the capital since the fire at King's Cross subway station in November 1987 that killed 31 people."

## Turks protest Hebron mosque killings

ISTANBUL (R) — About 140 Muslims leaving Friday prayers in central Istanbul burned the American flag and chanted anti-Israeli slogans to protest the killing of more than 60 Muslim worshippers in the occupied West Bank a week ago. There were no reports of injuries or arrests.

## Officials, community leaders welcome Jordan-Vatican ties

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the Jordanian Catholic community welcomed the long expected announcement of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the Vatican and the Kingdom.

Information Minister Jawad Anani said that Jordan believes that this move "will contribute towards the establishment of just and durable peace in the Middle East in a manner which would guarantee the human rights called for by the monotheistic religions."

"We welcome this step, especially that the Vatican represents most Christians of the world," Dr. Anani said in a telephone interview with the Jordan Times.

Catholic community leader Bishop Salim Sayegh received "with pride and pleasure" the Vatican's decision to exchange ambassadors with Jordan.

In a telephone interview, Bishop Sayegh said he was officially informed of the Vatican's long awaited decision Thursday morning.

"We are truly very proud and happy," the Bishop said, adding that his happiness is accentuated by the fact that "I am a Christian heading the Catholic community here and that I am Jordanian."

"This diplomatic representation between Jordan and the Vatican has been our wish for a long time, especially that there are no problems between the regime here and the Catholic community," Bishop Sayegh said.

## Abul Abbas vows to avenge massacre

AMMAN (AP) — Palestinian leader Mohammad Abbas, in comments published Friday, vowed to avenge the recent slaying of Muslim worshippers in the Israeli-occupied West Bank town of Hebron.

In an interview with Jordan's Arabic-language daily Al-Dustour newspaper, Mr. Abbas also urged Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to seek peace negotiations with Israel.

"We will undertake all necessary measures to avenge the blood of the men who were martyred, the children who were killed and the widows who cried," Mr. Abbas said in the interview conducted in his headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq.

"We want our people to know that the blood of our martyrs... will not go ignored," he said.

"We have great hope that God will help us to wipe off the tears of the widows and the children who lost their fathers and brothers in the ugly massacre," he added.

Mr. Abbas, also known as Abul Abbas, heads the pro-Iraq wing of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) which in 1984 split from the mother group that was affiliated with Syria.

Abul Abbas is accused of masterminding the 1984 hijack of an Italian cruiser, Achille Lauro. An American passenger was killed in the hijack. The PLF is on the U.S. wanted list.

An Italian court found Abul Abbas guilty of the hijack. Some of the hijackers were jailed, but Abul Abbas avoided capture.

The PLF was also responsible for an aborted attack on a Tel Aviv beach in May 1990. Mr. Arafat's refusal to denounce the attack led to a suspension of an 18-month American dialogue with the PLO. Mr. Abbas was a member of the organisation's Executive Committee.

The dialogue was resumed along with the signing of the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO peace accord.

In the interview, Abul Abbas chastised Mr. Arafat for his quest for a negotiated settlement with Israel and urged him to withdraw from the 28-month-old U.S.-backed Middle East peace process.

"These negotiations will only bring shame upon the Palestinian people," he said. "We are pained with the political performance of the Palestinian leadership."

"I advise the PLO to depart from the swamp which it fell in without hesitation and before a tragedy takes place," Abul Abbas warned.

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He said that "armed struggle is the only option" for the Palestinians to liberate the West Bank and Gaza.

community," Bishop Sayegh said.

He also said that the Catholic community in the Kingdom has been "expecting the news for months now."

A spokesman at the Italian embassy here said expectations were that diplomatic relations would be established between the Kingdom and the Vatican immediately after the Vatican announced that it would establish relations with Israel.

The Vatican and Israel recognised each other in December and Israeli leaders have invited the pope to visit the Jewish state whenever he wanted.

The spokesman said all the negotiations for the establishment of diplomatic ties were conducted in Rome between the Kingdom's ambassador there and Vatican officials.

This move comes at the heels of an announcement by pope John Paul in January that before the year 2000 he wanted to visit the principal holy sites of the Old and New Testaments, a trip which could include Israel, Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Turkey.

The pope is due next month to visit Lebanon, recovering from a devastating 15-year civil war between Christians and Muslims.

The Kingdom already has an Apostolic delegation and headquarters in Amman, which Bishop Sayegh believed will become the Vatican embassy. He had no details on other details and arrangements.



PRINCE VISITS WRITER: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan late Thursday visited prominent Jordanian writer and historian Rox Ben Zaid Al Uzairi at his home to inquire about his health condition. Prince Hassan conveyed to Mr. Uzairi, author of many books and a columnist, the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein. Mr. Uzairi read out a poem (see photo) welcoming Prince Hassan and voicing pride in the leadership of King Hassan and the Hashemite family. Prince Hassan was accompanied on the visit by Deputy Prime Minister Mawad Al-Nawar and his private advisor Mohammad Al-Sagoff. Also Thursday, Prince Hassan hosted an iftar in honour of retired army officers.

## Hekmatyar prevents food from entering Kabul

KABUL (AP) — The United Nations tried for a third straight day Friday to send a food convoy into this battered capital, but the prime minister's forces refused to let it pass.

"I'm afraid it will not enter Kabul today," said Sitorios Mousouris, the U.N.'s special representative for Afghanistan. He spoke to the Associated Press from his office in Islamabad, Pakistan.

The convoy, consisting of six trucks with 90 tonnes of food, is parked in Bagrami, 20 kilometres southeast of the Kabul, while the United Nations negotiates with renegade Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Mr. Hekmatyar had agreed to lift his blockade of Kabul and allow the convoy into the city, where food stocks are running out.

However, his forces made additional demands at the last minute and prevented the convoy from entering the city, said aid officials.

Mr. Hekmatyar imposed the blockade after he and his ally, warlord Rashid Dostum, attacked Kabul on Jan. 1 in a bid to oust President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Despite a sustained assault that left about 1,000 dead and around 12,000 wounded, Mr. Rabbani still controls most of the capital. Mr. Hekmatyar and General Dostum are entrenched on the southern and eastern fringes of the city and control the main roads leading into town.

Some 300,000 to 400,000 residents — about half of Kabul's population — have been driven from their homes, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Some have fled Kabul, others have found shelter with relatives or friends. But about 50,000 people are living in mosques, schools and abandoned buildings.

They are dependent on handouts from the Red Cross and other aid groups whose supplies have been depleted. The convoy left Wednesday from the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar on what should have been a one-day journey to Kabul.

However, the trucks have been stopped three times by various factions that control stretches of the highway. There are about 10 separate factions in the Afghan civil war. In addition, there are

numerous bands of autonomous fighters, each imposing their own laws at gunpoint.

The factions fought in a loose alliance for 13 years before ousting a communist government in April 1992. They have spent the last two years battling each other.

In Geneva, a U.N. spokesman said tens of thousands of refugees who have fled the carnage in Kabul are dying with death from unexploded mines littering camps near the Pakistani border.

Rupert Colville, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, said 1,600 people were arriving daily in the eastern city of Jalalabad. More than 200,000 Afghans have flooded into camps in the area since the civil war flared up again Jan. 1.

Mr. Colville said the United Nations was especially concerned that the fighting, for weeks confined to bombardments of the capital, now appeared to be spreading and there were reports of "thousands" of people on the move in northwestern Afghanistan.

He said one fifth of the new arrivals in Jalalabad had fled from places other than Kabul.

## Cairo police, protesters clash

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian police fired scores of teargas bombs Friday — some inside one of Cairo's oldest mosques — to disperse an estimated 10,000 demonstrators protesting the Hebron massacre.

The clash occurred after Friday prayers at Al Azhar Mosque. Ignoring pleas by a preacher, worshippers surged from the mosque, broke a chain across the only entrance and marched into the street. Police immediately opened up with tear-gas bombs.

An Associated Press reporter saw at least 30 people being arrested, some badly beaten. A security officer said later all were questioned for a couple of hours, then released.

Police surrounded most major mosques in the capital after Gad Al Haq Al Gad Al Haq, the grand sheikh of Al Azhar and Egypt's leading Islamic clergyman, asked congregations across the country to pray for the Palestinians slain by an Israeli settler in the Ibrahim mosque a week earlier.

Opposition party leaders requested a permit to march from Al Azhar after prayers but it was denied. Instead, their leaders held an anti-Israel conference inside.

Outside, veiled women members of the Islamic-oriented Labour Party raised banners reading "revenge... revenge" and "sever ties with Israel" and "Our government deals with the Jews, and they are killing Muslims in mosques."

As soon as prayers ended, young men representing Islamic groups and the leftist Nas-

serite Party raised black banners with anti-Israel slogans. One read: "There is no God but God: The Jews are the enemies of God."

After breaking the chain across the entrance, they rushed into Al Azhar Street waving copies of the Holy Koran and scattering leaflets.

Driven back inside the mosque by tear-gas, demonstrators first threw stones from an open area inside, then tried repeatedly to regain the street. Police suppressed them with tear-gas fired inside Al Azhar.

After police controlled the mosque area, opposition leaders emerged surrounded by supporters. "There is no freedom for the people," shouted Seif Al Islam Hassan Al Banna of the officially outlawed Muslim Brotherhood.

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"She told us that she had disciplined children and now she would discipline us," said one of her fellow deputies citing Ms. Faisal.

On Wednesday Ms. Faisal told her fellow deputies that the vote to accept the Lower House of Parliament's Judiciary Committee's decision not to lift Mr. Kreisha's immunity was a test of their dedication to democratic principles.

A political commentator who attended the session concluded that "the vote was in intensive care with a tentative frostbite to her leg one of which may have to be amputated. But she said: 'Kalee was alert and improvising. She's definitely very strong, very happy and very determined,'" her mother, Karf Kosolofski said.

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## COLUMN

## Diana washed the dishes, male friend says

LONDON (R) — A former riding instructor to the Princess of Wales portrayed Princess Diana as an easy-going friend who thought nothing of washing the dishes when she came to visit, Major James Hewitt said. Major James Hewitt said Princess Diana, an unhappy wife, doting mother and generous friend, wrote him letters and shipped out lavish food hampers from London's exclusive Fortnum and Mason store to cheer him up while he served in the Gulf War. "She came to stay and met my mother as one of close friends would. She was very natural," he told the Daily Express. "She would do the washing-up and help out. She was the perfect house guest," he said. "She is a very understated person who wants to be as normal as possible and be with her friends, having fun."

The rival Today newspaper ridiculed Hewitt for what it said were his "did or didn't I kiss?" I'm not telling" revelations following the first instalment Tuesday when he said only: "I'd defy a lot of men not to find her attractive but you have to learn to control your emotions and feelings in that respect."

Princess Diana gave Maj. Hewitt a diamond-studded ring to thank him for their riding lessons in London's Hyde Park and in Idyllic Parkland at her Highgrove country estate in western England, where he joined her inner circle of friends. Her husband Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne from whom she separated in 1992, only rarely turned up for the weekend house parties there with the princess's young friends.

"They were lovely, natural weekends," Maj. Hewitt said. "She was very relaxed, she was certainly the hostess and acted as such." Maj. Hewitt, a dashing upper-class army officer who loves riding, hunting, shooting and polo, said Princess Diana's letters boosted his morale while he served in the Gulf War in 1991, although her own morale in worsening relationship with Prince Charles was sinking. "I knew that privately it was a bad time for her," Maj. Hewitt, whose friendship with the princess has now frayed over according to the Daily Express, said Princess Diana's two children, Princes Harry and William, were the most important thing in her life. She quit public engagements last year to spend time with them. "She does not spoil them, they are extremely well-mannered and delightful boys," he said.

Girl, trapped outside 6 hours, nearly dies

REGINA, Saskatchewan (AP) — A 2-year-old girl accidentally locked outside her home for almost six hours in sub-zero temperatures was "like a blob of ice" by the time she was found lying on her front door-step, doctors said. Karlee Kosolofski had no heartbeat and was nearly frozen when she arrived at Plains Hospital in Regina. She remained in serious condition. "She was practically dead," said John Burgess, one of the doctors who revived her. "It's just amazing to get a child this age who literally comes in like a block of ice."

The girl, who was found lying on her front door-step, doctors said. Karlee Kosolofski had no heartbeat and was nearly frozen when she arrived at Plains Hospital in Regina. She remained in serious condition. "She was practically dead," said John Burgess, one of the doctors who revived her. "It's just amazing to get a child this age who literally comes in like a block of ice."

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